Daily Report

Supplement

Near East & South Asia

Iran:

9 December 1990-8 January 1991 Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-91-045-S
Thursday
7 March 1991

Near East & South Asia

Iran

9 December 1990-8 January 1991 Majles Sessions

FBIS-NES-91-045-S 7 March 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

IRAN

*RESALAT Reports Dec 1990 Majles Sessions 1
9 Dec Session *[10 Dec]* 1
12 Dec Session *[13 Dec]* 12
16 Dec Session *[17 Dec]* 20
19 Dec Session *[22 Dec]* 22
23 Dec Session *[24 Dec]* 24
26 Dec Session *[27 Dec]* 28
RESALAT Reports 1 Jan Majles Session *[2 Jan]* 32
* RESALAT Reports 8 Jan Majles Session *[9 Jan]* 37

*RESALAT Reports Dec 1990 Majles Sessions

9 Dec Session

PM1701120091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Dec 90 pp 5, 8, 11

[Excerpts] Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legal and Parliamentary section—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

During this session, following the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, the Majles went into session.

The report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent from yesterday's open session indicates that continued discussion on the bill to create facilities to eliminate poverty in deprived cities and villages in the country was the first item on the agenda which was examined by the deputies.

According to this report, following the presentation of the 1991 budget for the whole country by the president, continued discussions on the bill to provide facilities to eliminate poverty in cities and villages throughout the country, was left until the next session.

'Ali Fazel Hamdani, People's Deputy From Bahar And Kabutar-Ahang: The Great Leader Of The Revolution Has Talked Of The Two Political Groups That Exist In The Country As One Faction That Believes In Islam, The Imam—May His Passage To Paradise Be Expedited—And The Revolution

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Fazel Hamedani from the constituency of Bahar and Kabutar-ahang. In a speech he said: I have no intention of bothering you with repetitive remarks which cause tension because I am afraid that listening to speeches that cause dissent will prevent the presence of those in favor of justice—as it has done so far. But since one of the speakers in his Wednesday speech was asking for the help of the students at the Qom theological center to give their ideas on the subjects discussed at Friday prayers, I wanted to make some comments on the subject. First of all with regard to the wives of the Prophet, I must say that in this day and age when most things are run by machines and computers, having one wife involves quite a lot of problems and difficulties, compared with the days of the Prophet when these devices did not exist to make lives easier. The second point is that the Prophet's house was not large like yours or mine with a hall, living room, kitchen, construction certificate, and building permission. It was a collection of branches and leaves of the date palm which was unbearably hot in the summer and unbearably cold in the winter. Its cost was perhaps less than one-hundredth of a normal house now. All the various sections and rooms could be built or destroyed in one day. The third point is that if the marriage of the Prophet to these nine people was true, it was not done for pleasure but rather due to special political conditions of those times in war and peace. Each of the Prophet's wives was from a well-known Arab tribe and in general because God had tested his Prophet in all fields and in all situations, perhaps it was God's idea to test the Prophet in this field as well. You should especially not be surprised to see that the all the Prophet's wives, except for one, were older than him.

He then commented on the discussion on temporary marriage and said: I think that now that this discussion has been opened, one must think more about the details. If there is really talk of cleanliness and beauty, this issue should not become an excuse for those who only seek to have a good time, who feel no pain, or who are parasites on society. Often, these good-looking types criticize the Hezbollah who have been to the war and to the fronts. Some of the Hezbollah brothers have less time to care about their looks because they have too much work and those corrupt types see their entire life's aim in trying to look good. [Koranic verse]

The speaker added: If the issue of young people and marriage is brought up today it is expected to be done in such a way that the young people of Iran do not see themselves separated from the people and society. There must be a spirit of work and dignity created in young people. Instead of a tendency toward factional activity, they should be drawn more toward logical discussions and scientific and moral groups. Their decisions should not be rushed and they should look into all positive and negative aspects of both permanent and temporary marriages. It is quite possible that a young man who has been deprived for years would sell his entire world and religion for one so-called romantic encounter. Paying attention to the younger generation and looking into all aspects of their life not only organizes the current society but also draws the outlines of the future society. By so doing, we will then not have these aimless young men wandering about. Issues such as drug addiction and immorality would not come about too often. If the issue of marriage for young people is to be discussed, it is necessary that alongside the discussion on temporary marriages, there should be an effort to encourage young people toward marriage—to bring the message home to them that unless they get married they will not be able to acquire wealth or a house. The younger generation should be liberated from the expensive lifestyle that people have when living alone. Divorce should be treated as a deplorable tradition. In books such as Vasa'el al-Shi'i volume 7, under the title of women who do not marry—there should be discussions about this and women should be strongly discouraged from not marrying. There are stories of very high dowries and extremely high expenses which are deplorable. The government should encourage those young people who break such traditions to go to war against these wrong practices.

He then commented on the constructive and life-giving comments of the great leader of the revolution and said:

Fortunately, just as it was predicted, our people's movement in society has finally been narrowed down into one line. Of the two political groups that have come about in society, the leader spoke of one faction which believes in Islam, the imam, and the revolution. Now one is expected to have wishes, not demands and requests, just as the dear departed imam—may his passage to paradise be expedited—closed down the Islamic Republic Party with its brilliant past record. Our society now understands issues clearly and does not really need a guardian. The leader of the revolution himself is the commander of the armed forces and there is no power higher than the spirituality of the clergy. He should now be kind enough to close down temporarily the Militant Clergy (Rowhaniyat) Association and the Militant Clerics (Rowhaniyun) Association. Because the more divisions there are, the more people will think there is something wrong. Whereas if one gets close to these organizations, one can see that there is nothing new other than what people say in some cases. Therefore it is better not to discuss any personal beliefs and understandings and to have the whole issue of being a clergyman under one umbrella so that there will be less tension in the future. Thank God we have so many people now reading sermons and prayers that the entire population have become clerics so that there is not even enough room for us clergymen, let alone room to have two clerical organizations.

He then added: Under those conditions, [illegible]ien there is less tension in society, then Ayatollah Yaz[illegible] with all his perseverance, would not have to address the people in the Friday prayers and criticize a deputy who had complained about the shortage of paper in the Majles, putting him on public trial.

When the forces are centralized, each official thinks about his own organizational and executive work. We see today that some judges, clerical and non-clerical, live in very hard and poor conditions, whereas we hear from Ayatollah Yazdi who says: "Judges need peace of mind and health of spirit." How good it would be if he, with the coordination that he will have with the Majles during this holiday period, thought of ways to provide for these forgotten and dear people.

It is proper that instead of various discussions, just as we saw last Thursday when the heads of the three powers were together, alone, close, talking to one another with honesty and warmth, they should be like that in public. The increased presence of the heads of the three powers in public will give a special support and feeling to the people. We see today history's criminals united, even if it is a superficial unity.

He added: With all our ideological values, there is no need for us to form all these different factions.

He continued: We should all move forth under one banner, with one line and one direction, and aim to destroy aggression and dictatorship. Groups focusing on individuals or a particular line of thought should not pollute the mass because all these things can be resolved with constructive discussions.

Hoseyn Kuhestani, People's Deputy From Behshahr

Today The Enemies Have Sharpened Their Teeth And Have Formed A Unified Line Against The Revolution.

Mr. Hoseyn Kuhestani, people's deputy from Behshahr was the second pre-agenda speaker. He commented on the meeting held between government officials and the vali in charge of the Muslims' affairs. [passage omitted]

He continued by talking about the Majles decreasing the funds for Voice and Vision and said: Unfortunately the radio and television created much noise in order to remove the budget for Voice and Vision and add it as an adjustment. They belittled the Majles, there were insults against some deputies, they broadcast the text of the discussions several times, they quoted the imam, but broadcast the historic speech of the leader only as a news item. I heard that this speech was not fully taped by Voice and Vision. If this is true, this is a bad shortcoming. If there was a tape, why was it not broadcast?

He added: The leader of the revolution said: "We are all indebted to this revolution and both factions are indebted to the revolution. The only ones who can claim something are the people." [passage omitted]

He concluded by discussing the problems of his constituency.

Mohammad Qomi, Deputy For The People Of Varamin

Keeping Cultural Independence And Relying On Values Does Not Mean The People Have To Live In Hardship And Financial Difficulty. [passage omitted]

He added: Without a doubt, taking creature comforts as a target in the country's current economic conditions will have no effect but a daily increase in dependence and the destruction of the biggest achievement of the revolution. Of course the true owners of the revolution, those same masses who are dedicated, are the same ones who have financial difficulty. The main aim of reconstruction should be to provide in a fundamental way for their financial as well as spiritual needs.

One knows the difficulties well and one can tell the difference between those who consider helping the needy to be their main objective and the others. According to the great leader, those who think that this country should forget its confrontation with the major powers and give up what they term "hardline policies" are greatly mistaken. Elements such as making the people afraid of the satanic powers, importing all sorts of goods, occupying the people with issues to do with creature comforts, making fun of basic principles, giving key posts to those who avoided the war fronts and those who are comfortable and without pain, are all things that destroy cultural independence.

He continued: Is it right that our society is the only country in the world where those who are against the regime, or are at least indifferent to it, can enjoy better economic growth than others? Is it right that a considerable number of people in the past and present have not been able to use leisure centers, because of their religious beliefs, or because of the immorality and corruption that exists in most of those centers, or because the leech-like capitalists have not left them any economic leeway, when most of them are not even able to provide the necessities of life?

He concluded by saying: The Majles has introduced a scheme in order to solve the problems of the POW's and government civil servants, especially those under contract, and the deadline for the scheme has run out. If God is willing, the Council of Guardians will pay special attention to approving this bill which was passed by the Majles. In the budget for teachers, there has been nothing allocated for the teachers of the illiteracy corps. If God is willing, the respected president will pay attention to this issue. [passage omitted]

[Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri, deputy for the people of Dehloran and Mehran]: Last Wednesday the great leader, in his imam-like and wise speech said: "Encouraging society to stay away from the spirit of consumerism and become liberated from the trappings of Western culture, depends on our action. Government officials must shun pomp and, in a word, they have to show others by their action that they care little for worldly goods." It is the duty of all officials in the regime to match themselves with the comments of the leader because the people will be the final judge in this matter. [passage omitted]

He concluded by asking the head of the judicial authorities to implement the Constitution seriously.

The President's Comments In Presenting The Budget Bill

The president made a speech detailing the actions of the government in the past year and outlining the specific provisions of the 1991 budget for the whole country. [passage omitted]

Welfare Expenditure For 1991 Has Been Estimated At 26,644.9 Billion Rials, Compared With 1990 This Shows An Increase Of 52.9 Percent

Then Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani outlined the actions of the government during the past year and detailed the special points in the 1991 budget.

He said: The 1991 budget is being presented to the Majles at a time when following several years of stagnation, the country's economy has started its period of growth. In terms of economics, we are in a transitional period between a wartime economy and a planned economic period. Perhaps this is the most difficult task at this particular time.

Economic management during a war differs greatly from economic management under normal conditions. Under wartime conditions, on one hand, the government's expenditure increases but the ways and means to earn that income become limited so there is a severe budget deficit. In addition to that, policies of constraint limit possibilities for investment and there are delays in the capacity to meet future needs. On the other hand, the inflation that comes about because of a lack of balance in a wartime economy forces the government to stabilize prices in order to protect the more vulnerable section of society. It is normal that price fixing combined with increasing inflation in the whole economy should force the government to show its presence in each economic unit and to exercise control. Price fixing combined with inflation gradually causes production units to fail. At the same time the private sector, for these same reasons and also because of the risks involved in wartime, does not show much inclination toward investment. This means that the country's economy faces inflation as well as stagnation which was our starting point last year. It is normal that many of the effects of war and the problems that have come about as a result of the war will affect society for many years after the war, as the history of all nations who have had a war shows. Of course it is necessary at this time that I should mention that the condition described came about as a result of the war that was imposed on the country and one must not forget the admirable role of the previous government during the war.

The Budget Deficit Has Been Calculated At 1,103.1 Billion Rials Which Compared To The Deficit Predicted In The Program Shows A Decrease Of 242 Billion Rials. Realizing This Point Could Be Considered As A Major Success For The Government And Could Have A Major Role In Slowing Down The Trend Toward Inflation In The Country

The actions of the past and the conditions that exist now based on the preliminary forecasts for the Five-Year Plan told us that the basic points of the nation's economy needed fundamental change. These changes mostly had to be combined with policy changes. These policy changes are the points in the five-year plan that have been outlined as adjusting pricing policies to establish fair prices, adjusting foreign trade policies and breathing more life into the nongovernmental sector.

Hard currency policies:

Foreign currency policies mainly concerned the goal of lowering currency values as the government's main policy for reaching fair prices, which was started by presenting hard currency at competitive rates. The policy, while causing increased local production, meant that local prices were more logical when compared with prices paid for imported goods, which also meant that production of many items became economical. As a result the mechanisms geared toward self-sufficiency became activated. On the other hand, with the value of hard currency becoming more reasonable, the long process that existed for the control of hard currency was

shortened which meant that production units could obtain their hard currency directly and in less time. In terms of encouraging non-oil exports there have been major changes in policies during the past months. We hope that in the coming years we will witness a considerable increase in hard currency earnings from non-oil products.

Because of the policies implemented, all exporters, importers, and producers are allowed to spend currency earned from the sale of non-oil goods to import raw materials, equipment, and all manner of manufactures goods.

In reality this means that it is now possible to use the hard currency from exports for a part of production, whose final product is not subject to a fixed price. Alongside these facilities, giving permission for the importing of steel building materials was a step taken with two aims, to encourage exports and to provide the building materials needed for investment inside the country.

- The actions of the main economic indicators:

The actions of the main economic indicators in the new period which coincides with the first program of economic, social, and cultural growth in the Islamic Republic of Iran, all show basic changes compared to previous trends:

The gross local production at fixed prices which had decreased by an average of 5.6 percent annually between 1985 and 1988, showed a positive growth in 1989. According to the latest figures, it has increased by about 4 percent compared with the previous year. Preliminary reports in 1990 also indicate a growth in production in the current year.

The value of industrial production which was on a downward trend between 1984 and 1988, which had decreased by an average of about 10 percent a year, has changed direction since 1989. According to available information, the gross value of production of heavy industrial goods in 1989 has increased by an average of 9.7 percent compared with the previous year. Within this framework, the growth in industries under the umbrella of the organization of industrial growth in Iran has been reported to be about 14 percent. Also 55 of the 88 industrial products supervised by the ministry of industries in 1989 showed an increase in production compared with 1988. Similar investigation in the first six months of 1990 indicates an increase in production of 66 items compared with the same period the previous year. According to the findings of these investigations, during the first six months of the current year the production of vegetable oil shows an increase of 25 percent compared with the same period last year; car tires, 54 percent; factory-made rugs, 29 percent; glass for domestic use, 42 percent; pipes and sheet metals, 71 percent; aluminium radiators, 372 percent; water-cooled air-conditioners, 105 percent; black and white television sets, 87 percent; refrigerators, 93 percent; vans, 122 percent; heavy duty and light-weight trucks, 99 percent; trucks used for civilian duties, 283 percent; lift trucks, 194 percent; loading trucks, 81 percent; combine harvesters, 45 percent; heavy-duty pressure pumps, 262 percent; floating water pumps, 137 percent; various cutting and molding machines, 143 percent; steam tanks, 351 percent; various pipes, 243 percent; aluminium sheets, 305 percent; and agricultural motors, 66 percent. One of the effective factors in the increase in industrial production during this period has been the hard currency facilities that have been placed at the disposal of industries. During the first six months of 1990 the hard currency given to the industrial sector was about $4.175 billion which, compared with the total currency spent in this sector during 1988 and 1989, shows an increase of 225 percent and 64 percent respectively.

With regard to the production of metals, there have also been significant achievements. In this connection one can talk about the program to expand aluminium which came into production in March 1990, one year ahead of schedule. As a result of this, the production in this sector has exceeded 30.8 tonnes during the first six months of the current year. This shows an increase of 85.5 percent compared with the forecast rate of production. Also the production of steel in the country was about 1.6 million tonnes in 1989 which, according to the goals set out in the five-year plan, shows an increase of 8.6 percent. The situation in 1990 is better than this, its results will be announced at the end of the year.

The government's earnings which showed a five percent drop in 1988 compared with the previous year, showed an increase of more than 51.6 percent in 1989. Keeping in mind the average increase in spending (about five percent), the government's budget deficit dropped from 2,111.7 billion rials in 1988 to 1,251.1 billion rials in 1989. The proportion of the deficit to the whole budget has dropped from 50.1 percent in 1988 to 28.2 percent in 1989.

Following the same trend, during the first eight months of 1990 the government's income has risen by around 90 percent compared with the same period the previous year. The government's budget deficit during this same period, compared with two-thirds of the budget, shows a drop of more than 44 percent which is 460.7 billion rials. The deficit accounts for 15.5 percent of the whole budget, which is unprecedented over recent years.

Using The Predicted Resources And Funds In 1991, It Is Expected That By The End Of Next Year The Number Of Completed Health Clinics Will Show a 2.7 Percent Increase Over The Forecast Figures, The Number Of Health Clinics In Towns And Cities Will Show An Increase Of 15.2 Percent, And The Number Of Hospital Beds Coming Into Use Will Show An Increase Of 2.8 Percent Compared With The Targets

The increase in tax revenue has been one of the most important factors in increased revenue during this period. Revenue from taxes, which during the 1985-1987

period had remained stable at about 1,000 billion rials, rose to 1,187.9 in 1989, which shows an increase of more than 20 percent compared with the previous year. In the first eight months of 1990 tax revenue has increased by 37.6 percent compared with figures for the previous year. An increase in income tax of 40 percent has been an important factor in the increase in tax revenues. This increase is part of government policy to make the country's taxation system fairer, and this will play a major role in a better distribution of income throughout the country. Recent government decisions to cut tax on salaries will also help considerably in this matter.

With a reduction in the government's budget deficit, there has been an effort to prevent an increase in the amount of money in the hands of the private sector. The growth in the money supply has dropped form 24.2 percent in 1988 to 19.5 percent in 1989. Also in the first six months of 1990 the growth in money supply was about 8.4 percent which shows a considerable drop of 10.6 percent compared with figures for the same period in the previous year. Alongside this trend, the supply of both bank notes and coins in the banks has dropped and the level of savings for individuals, especially long-term savings, has increased sharply. In this manner, the inflationary money supply has been reduced. During the first half on 1990 the volume of bank notes and coins in the people's hands has decreased by 3.3 percent and the people's savings in the banks have gone up by 11.2 percent.

The considerable increase in real production and the control established over the growth of money supply has meant a drop in prices. The increase in the cost of living in the first six months of 1990 reached 5.1 percent which shows a considerable drop compared with the figures for the same period in 1989.

Following this introduction with regard to the general state of the economy, I will present my views on the budget for 1991 in two parts. In the first section we will look at the general aspects of the budget and in the second part we will talk about some points in the government's executive plans for next year.

Details Of The 1991 Budget

The most significant aspect of the 1991 budget is that it is planned within the framework of the goals and policies set out in the program for economic, social, and cultural growth in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Continuing the efforts made in 1989 and 1990, there has been an adequate effort to ensure that the amounts allocated in the 1991 budget are coordinated with the footnotes, income and expenditure, goals, policies, and figures published in the first five-year plan, especially bearing in mind the government's aid to reduce the budget deficit and the bank loans. This was reflected in the first program of expansion and was also heavily stressed by the respected Majles. The above-mentioned coordination with regard to the government's budget deficit in 1991 is most definitely the subject of attention, so much so that the budget deficit in the 1991 budget is expected to be about 1,103.1 billion rials which, compared with the estimated amounts in the Five-Year Plan, shows a drop of more than 242 billion rials. This achievement could be considered a major victory for the government and has played an important role in lessening the inflationary trend in the country.

Another important point to note in the 1991 budget is the special attention given to deprived and underdeveloped areas of the country. This is one of the most important and basic policies which was kep in mind during the planning stages of the first program. In distributing welfare funds throughout 24 provinces, the major pull has been toward those provinces that are considered deprived. These funds are provided from various sources. In the 1991 budget the sum of 60 billion rials has been put aside as a special fund to reduce poverty and to make up for the differences that exist between these areas and other more prosperous parts of the nation, in order to attain the goals set out in Footnote 5 of the first program.

Special attention is being paid to reconstruction in war-ravaged areas and providing funds for speedy reconstruction projects is another basic point in the 1991 budget. In this regard, the sum of 270 billion rials has been put aside which, compared with this year's figure, shows an increase of more than 300 percent. We hope that by setting aside this sum and considering the political conditions in the region, we will see in 1991 the return of about 500,000 refugees so that these compatriots can go back to their homes and start work. Also, to compensate for the areas damaged in the earthquake in Gilan, Zanjan, and other areas which suffer damage as a result of unpredictable events, the sum of 120 billion rials credit has been taken into account. The plans are made in such a way that most of the work to do with reconstruction is completed in 1991.

At this time I think it necessary to point out other aspects of the budget:

Footnotes:

Keeping in mind the conditions after the imposed war and the necessity for reconstruction in the country, the utmost effort has been made to prepare the footnotes in such a way as to enable the executive organizations to carry out their duties with more ease.

There has been an effort to ensure that the footnotes to the 1991 budget match the footnotes, policies, and goals of the first program for economic, social, and cultural expansion in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Since the budget footnotes are only valid for one year, those footnotes which have a permanent nature, which need to be repeated in future budget bills, have been avoided. In those cases, the items are presented as individual bills to the Majles.

The lengthy and detailed footnotes of last year have been organized in a clear manner which will be presented as part of the 1991 budget to the Majles.

Keeping in mind the passing of the law dealing with the first program, in which all the funds needed for various items and projects have been estimated, the utmost effort has been made to stay away from those footnotes which were concentrated in one area, outside the relevant chapters.

Revenues in the public budget:

The income of the government next year is said to be three and a half times the average earnings in the period between 1986 and 1988. Of the above figure, 31.7 percent comes from taxes, 55.6 percent from oil and gas, and 12.7 percent from other sources. The one point that has to be explained with regard to revenue is that in each of the past few years a figure was set aside in the section devoted to other sources of revenue which came from fluctuations in the rate of hard currency sold and which was spent on buying essential goods and services. Keeping in mind the nature of this revenue which came essentially from the sale of oil, this sum has been placed in the section dealing with the export of oil and gas in the 1991 budget.

Keeping in mind the programs planned in the framework of the first plan, tax revenue in 1991 has been estimated at 2,248.5 billion rials. Compared with what happened in the current year this shows an increase of more than 39.2 percent. Therefore the proportion of gnp derived from tax revenue, which showed a downward trend until 1988, has gone from 4.4 percent in 1989 and 5.2 percent in 1990 to 6.4 percent in 1991. The mentioned ratio will gradually increase to 8.4 percent according to predictions in the first program by 1993, the last year of the plan. Also, the ratio of tax revenue to expenditure, which is one of the best methods of testing the government's financial capability, has gone from 35 percent in 1989 to 38 percent in 1990 and will reach 40.5 percent in 1991.

Tax revenue, leaving aside its volume, has also improved in terms of its form. This will help the government to continue the trend to make taxation even fairer. Income tax next year will increase by about 70 percent as compared to 1990 and the ratio between income tax and tax from salaries will more than double.

It has been forecast that revenue from the sale of oil and gas will reach 3,938.6 billion rials in the 1991 budget. In this figure, the sum of 2,610 billion rials or 66.3 percent comes from the difference in the value of hard currency earned from the sale of oil, which in previous years was placed in the section devoted to other sources of revenue. Leaving aside this new item, the outlook for income from the sale of gas and oil next year, forecast on the basis of what happened in 1990, shows an increase of 23.8 percent. Also with regard to the above figure 18.7 billion rials is the revenue from gas and 36.8 billion rials revenue from the export of petroleum products.

The government's other income in 1991 is expected to total 900.8 billion rials, which is an increase of more than 70 percent over 1990. We hope that through the mechanisms provided in the first program, and the footnotes to the budget bill for next year, we will be able to achieve the mentioned figure.

The general budget expenditure:

1. Current expenditure:

The current expenditure in the 1991 budget has been estimated at a total of 5,546.1 billion rials in order to realize the goals set out by the first program. Compared to the activity of 1990 this shows an increase of some 31.1 percent. The social sections including education (public, technical, professional, and higher education,) health, welfare, and improved living conditions take up the biggest share of the increased spending next year. The current expenditure for the mentioned sectors in 1991 are expected to total 2,525 billion rials, accounting for 46 percent of general expenditure. Compared with 1990 this shows an increase of some 35.2 percent. Current spending on internal security makes up for more than 6.5 percent of expenditure and will be increased by about 40 percent compared with 1990. Also, in accordance with footnote 22 of the law dealing with the first program, the sum of 300 billion rials has been aside to increase the salaries of civil servants. Without considering the main aspects mentioned above, current spending next year will show an increase of about 20 percent compared with activity in 1990.

The proportion of government expenditure devoted to current spending, which in previous years was constantly increasing because of stagnation in the social sphere and production activity, will be about 67.9 percent in 1991. Compared to figures for 1989 (76.9 percent) and 1990 (70.9) this shows a relative improvement in this area. 2. Social costs:

Social programs in 1991 have been given funds of 2,644.9 billion rials which, compared with 1990, shows an increase of 52.5 percent—a dignified figure for our regime. Social funds fixed at 1974 values because of the imposed war and stagnation in production activity, were constantly declining. They dropped from 357 billion rials in 1984 to 138 billion rials in 1988. In 1989 they started to increase and in 1991 will reach 415.4 billion rials which, compared with similar figures for the previous years, shows an increase of 46.9 percent.

In distributing government social funds in 1991, the main focus has been on providing sources of investment needed to provide physical facilities for education, health, expansion of water and soil resources, as well as providing for infrastructure and communications needs. Bearing in mind the existing shortcomings in the country's transportation system, equipping ports and increasing the capacity of the rail network is one of the most basic objectives of the social budget next year. Keeping in mind these same

priorities, social funds given to public education show an increase of 29.3 percent compared with figures in the previous year, technical and professional training 26.5 percent, health 35.1 percent, agriculture 23.6 percent, water resources 23 percent, and roads and transport show an increase of 23 percent. Also within the framework of social funds, there is a central credit of 220 billion rials to balance the credits in accordance with rising prices.

The social budget for the provinces in 1991 shows better quality. It has a better form and while dealing with a large portion of regional needs in its various footnotes, its major focus is on creating more balance in various areas and utilizing deprived and less well-developed areas in a more efficient way. The social budget for the provinces next year has been estimated at 450 billion rials which shows an increase of 47 percent compared with figures in the previous year.

In addition to this, in the various footnotes of the budget, there are special funds put aside for social projects in the provinces which means that in general the total volume of funds available to the provinces is a substantial amount. Using these funds about 2,766 projects will be carried out throughout the country's provinces next year. Compared with the 2,230 projects in 1990, this shows an increase of 546 projects. Most of these projects are in the area of providing services and infrastructure. Also in 1991, some 33 billion rials from the national social fund wil be used at the provincial level. This action will be an effective step toward decentralization of social projects in terms of executive affairs. In this process there are a total of 150 projects in the national budget that have to do with public education, water resources, welfare and reconstruction in villages, and agriculture relating to the provinces. There will be an effort to continue this in the coming years.

We Have A Serious Austerity Period Ahead Of Us Until We Have Passed Through It, Which We Are Doing At the Moment

Government-owned companies, banks, and other organizations linked with the government:

With regard to government-owned companies, one must keep in mind that these are good instruments for exercising government control. In addition to this, they will have an undeniable and basic role to play in the country's economic future. There is a great deal of emphasis on them in the first program of economic, cultural, and social growth in the country. From the total current credit and fixed investment during the period of the program the sum of 5,667 billion rials from internal sources will be invested in such companies.

One of the important points to note with regard to the implementation of a policy of handing over control of firms is proper use of funds made as a result of the deal. In this connection, it has been decided that the earned income should be used for the purposes listed below:

Repaying what government-owned companies owe the banks.

Repaying what these companies owe from the past within the framework of social projects.

Repaying the treasury as part of our necessary resources in order to run the economy more efficiently.

For those government-owned companies, which are not to be handed over to the private sector for reasons such as a conflict of interest with the constitution, or because of decisions made by the cabinet, the government of the Islamic Republic will improve the management, financial, and executive foundations of such companies in accordance with footnote 32 of the law dealing with the first program.

The expenditure of government-owned companies, banks, and other government organizations for 1991 has been estimated at more than 11,166 billion rials which, compared to figures for the current year, shows an increase of 42.4 percent.

One must keep in mind the special attention paid to government-owned companies in the first program and the utilization of all their facilities and powers to promote and realize the goals of the first program. Within the framework of some of the goals of the first program, the government-owned companies in 1991 will use their own resources to invest 2,182 billion rials, using the banks and other sources. Compared with figures for 1990, this shows an increase of 35.7 percent.

Taxes paid by government-owned companies will total 350.3 billion rials and the profit from their shares will total 43.3 billion rials which, compared with similar figures for 1990, show an increase of 290 and 119 percent respectively.

It is expected that the activity of government-owned companies and the country's banks will continue to improve next year following the policies adopted by the government. The losses by some companies last year have been brought under control and these companies will start to make profits next year. This includes the Iranian national steel company which, according to 1989 forecasts, was due to suffer a loss of 20 billion rials in 1990. In 1991 it will have profits of 20 billion rials.

Executive programs for the government in 1991:

In the second half it would not be inappropriate to look into some executive programs set out by the government in 1991, to see the special points of these programs in the budget.

Culture, information, and mass communications:
In the first six months of 1990 22,515 hours of radio programs and 2,488 hours of television programs were produced and a total of 41,997 hours of radio programs and 6,667 hours of television programs broadcast. Seven million people, both young and old, visited libraries. Some 4,800 book titles were printed along with 269 magazine and newspaper titles printed in the first six months of the year. The very succesful presence of Iranian music, theater, and cinema in international festivals and in foreign countries is among the most important activities of this sector.

In 1991, work on the installation of a powerful radio transmitter, two short-wave radio transmitters, one powerful television transmitter, two production and broadcast centers, 250 earth satellite stations, and 50 low-power television relay transmitters will be completed. Utilizing the mentioned centers and transmitters the population coming under the coverage of radio and television services will be as follows:

- Coverage of the first network of Voice: 97.8 percent of the population.
- Coverage of the second network of Voice: 80 percent of the population.
- Coverage by the FM band: 73 percent of the population.
- Coverage of the first network of Vision: 89.5 percent of the population.
- Coverage of the second network of Vision: 85 percent of the population.

In 1991, alongside the production of 7.5 million books for children and young people, there will be 200,000 tapes made as well 50,000 constructive entertainments produced.

The construction of five libraries for children will be completed. Construction on 21 public libraries and 40 cultural, art, and cinematic centers will continue. Construction will also start on 96 public libraries and cultural centers as well as the national library of Iran and Iran's archive center for national documents.

More than 10,000 book titles will be printed in Iran with 80 million copies.

Sport:

The facilities which have been placed at the disposal of the sport sector over recent years are preliminary steps which we hope will lead to major steps in the future. Championship sports have progressed to a certain extent and we have seen some success at international level, especially the Asian Games. Women's sport came under attention in 1990 and will involve 300,000 people by the end of this year. This trend will increase next year and will involve 325,000 people.

In 1991, in order to facilitate the running of federations and sports' bodies, the sum of 1.2 billion rials will be placed at the disposal of federations and sports' bodies independently. Also from the welfare fund designated for sports there will be 107 plans with 473 projects implemented. It is predicted that 4 plans and 122 projects will be finished by the end of this year and will be ready for use. Keeping in mind the importance that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to the leisure time of young people and how this is spent, especially the role that sports can have in this, the funds estimated for this sector in 1991 come to 35.6 billion rials, which compared to figures in 1990 shows an increase of more than 30 percent.

Education:

The most important issue in education is to strengthen the morale of teachers and to create suitable mental and physical comforts for them so that this sector is encouraged to employ forces in society that are better prepared for the job. During the last few years, because of the government's policies of cuts, the sectors ability to do so has been severely reduced. This is why in addition to steps to increase the salaries of all government civil servants next year, all steps in the five-year plan which are designed to invite the people's participation, will be followed seriously. This includes the experimental plan for work in several areas, adjustments to the laws dealing with regional education councils and their quick implementation, the removal of obstacles in the path of people who wish to participate in education matters, physically and financially, providing adequate facilities for the expansion of non- profit-making schools by teachers who are willing and dedicated, and the implementation of regulations which will allow them to gain access to funds to aid them and provide them with information about ways that these funds should be spent.

With regard to literacy in 1990, the government implemented the plan put forward by the Crusade. The activities of the literacy movement in the first half of the year were intended to make 850,000 adults literate. In the second half it is predicted that this figure will reach 1.5 million adults—much higher than the goals set out in the first program. It is predicted that in 1991 the number of students will reach 16 million or 2.1 percent more than the figures published in the first program. From the welfare funds for this sector next year there will be construction work on 46,000 classrooms, of which 9,000 classrooms will be useable by the end of the year.

Higher Education:

The number of students in graduate and post-graduate studies in government universities and centers of higher learning throughout the country in 1991 is estimated at 247,000. This shows a growth of about 7.8 percent compared with this year's figure of 229,000. One must keep in mind that the number of students in 1991 is said to be 6,700 more than the figures predicted in the first program. Fortunately in the private sector, which is not a burden on the shoulders of the government budget, there are about this number of students studying.

By implementing the existing plans in 1991 it is predicted that education facilities for about 8,555 students will be ready for use which, if realized, will mean that during the first three years of the program the facilities will be able to look after 15,595 students.

In 1991, in addition to a rise in salary for both permanent and non-permanent faculty staff, an increase in teaching fees, the plan to turn non-permanent teaching staff into full-time employees of universities and centers of higher learning which was approved in 1990, there have been funds put aside for bonus pay for these teachers.

In 1991, the necessary funds have been provided for the start of very high level professional and doctorate courses, permission for which has been granted by the council for expansion at the ministry of arts and higher education and the ministry of health and health education.

In 1991 adequate funds have been provided for three medical colleges to start work (Ilam, Lorestan and Yasuj).

Health and Hygene:
By using the funds and resources allocated for 1991, it is expected that by the end of next year the number of health clinics will have been increased by 2.7 percent compared to the estimates contained in the first program, the number of health centers, city health centers and villages health facilities opened will have increased by 15.2 percent and the number of beds in hospitals brought into use will have increased by 2.8 percent. Also in 1991:

There will be work done to provide drinking water for 1,850 villages.

There will be work done to equip and start 1,000 health clinics, 415 medical centers in both towns and villages, 16 central medical centers in cities, 200 child-birth centers and 2,200 hospital beds in line with the objectives set out in the first program.

There will be work done on the construction of 250 health clinics, 140 health centers in towns and villages, blood banks, and about 13,000 hospital beds in the framework of related plans.

It is estimated that the total number of people covered by medical insurance plans for civil servants will reach 5.1 million and the number of workers with health insurance will increase to 13.5 million. Compared to the estimates contained in the first program this will be an increase of about 5 and 5.6 percent respectively.

Those people covered by a plan designed for war refugees and those affected by natural disasters in 1990 number about 1.9 million people—a figure which according to the first program was supposed to drop to 1.3 million in 1991. But because there was no possibility of reducing these numbers, those persons covered by the foundation for war refugees will be about 10 percent more than the targets contained in the first program.

From current funds and banking facilities there have been some steps taken to help with the purchase of housing and essential goods. There will be grants to facilitate marriage and employment opportunities for POW's through technical and professional training as well as providing equipment for their work.

In 1991 welfare funds will make a contribution to the work to complete and equip 19 support and service centers and one center for the welfare of families and children and work will be done to complete 10 physiotherapy centers as well as to improve the standards in 30 health centers throughout the provinces.

Agriculture:
Welfare funds for this sector in 1991 are predicted to be about 2.5 billion rials which in comparison to similar figures in the current year, shows growth of 23.6 percent. The most important projects which will take place within the framework of these funds will be as follows:

With regard to water and soil projects there are plans to increase irrigation, to equip and renew traditional sites and irrigation networks, as well as to standardize procedures and irrigate those systems which are under pressure throughout 510 hectares of land. This will make a saving of 1.5 billion cubic meters of water.

In connection with activity with regard to pastures and forests, there will be restoration of pastures, project to combat shifting sand over an area of 12.3 million hectars, and the felling of about 3.1 million cubic meters of wood.

With regard to poultry, the poultry farm at Layen in Babolkenar will start its work, which means there will be no need for the import of 80,000 one-day-old chicks to be slaughtered for food later. Also by providing facilities and proper conditions for the private sector, potential chicken production will increase by 600,000 tonnes, milk production by 31,500 tonnes and red meat production by 30,000 tonnes as compared with the current capacity.

In connection with agricultural activity, the estimated harvest for 1991 is expected to total about 20 million tonnes which means that for most crops there will be increased yields. Some of the targets set out in the first program for 1990 have been reached with regard to crops such as oil-seeds and fodder but we are a bit behind when it comes to wheat.

Water sources:
In 1991 the construction of the Khoda-afarin and 15 Khordad dams and several other small projects started, using funds from the national budget. In the program to create irrigation networks it is predicted that in the current year work will finish on an area of about 3,000 hectares of main networks and 12,000 tributaries.

In the water supply program it is predicted that in 1991 the building of the Jiroft dam with a capacity of 290 million cubic meters and Band-e Nomel dam with a capacity of 15 million cubic meters of water will be completed.

In the program to provide irrigation networks, the Haraz network and its connecting dam, the building of the Karun network and the network of Fat-hol Mobin, designed to control flooding, will all be completed.

In the program to supply water to cities, the work to supply water to the towns of Ilam, Tabas, Ferdows and Shirvan will be completed.

Industries and Mines:
Keeping in mind the funds available both in rials and hard currency for this sector in 1991, more than 100 industrial units in various fields, will start work. These projects are mostly to do with petrochemical industries, non-metalic industrial goods, machine-making industries and equipment-building. With these units starting work, about 100,000 tonnes of chemicals, 130,000 tonnes of cement, more than 30 million electric light bulbs and a considerable amount of equipment and consumer goods will be added to the current production capacity.

Keeping in mind the increased production as well as the starting-up of some plants for the smelting of metals, the capacity for metal production in 1991 will see a considerable increase as compared to 1990, as listed below:

With the steel works at Ahvaz and the heavy-duty cylinder plant at Kaviyan, some 1,550,000 tonnes will be added to the production of steel bars and 800,000 tonnes to production of cylinders.

Copper production in 1989 was about 76,000 tonnes which compared to the five-year-plan has increased by 12 percent. In the current year the completion of the program, which means production of 78,000 tonnes, with production of 35,000 tonnes in the first six months and the start of kiln No. 2, are certain. Production in 1991 will be more than 100,000 tonnes and we are hoping that the huge factories at Mobaraked and the Zanjan lead factory will both start work.

Trade:
In 1990, in order to provide essential items for the country some 9.3 million tonnes of wheat, rice, cooking oil, tea, meat, fertilizers, and fodder for farm animals and poultry valued at $2.6 billion will be purchased and imported into the country. With the distribution of these items the people's needs will be partly met by these supplies. The estimated imports of these items for 1991 is put at 8.8 million tonnes valued at $2.7 billion.

The rate of subsidies forecast for 1991 will equal 553.7 billion rials which will be used in the execution of our program to support the consumer, especially those in the sector with a low income, in order to reduce the cost of living for the family. About 55 billion rials of this will come from the overall government budget and the rest will come from the consumer and producer protection assocation. Also the subsidy for wheat which in the current year is about 127.2 billion rials, will increase to 210.9 billion rials in 1991 because of the increase in local wheat production and the rise in prices paid to local farmers for their wheat.

In order to expand and extend non-oil exports and in order to achieve the targets set out in the first program and to obtain the desired amount of hard currency, regulations have been drawn up for encouragement and guidance. There are funds set aside in next year's budget to pay hard currency to exporters.

There are plans next year to encourage producers to produce goods that are competitive, to set up facilities for the import and export of goods in this connection, and to shape policies that will attract the cooperation of exporters.

The investment in the trade sector in 1991 will be more than 7.1 billion rials. This investment is for construction of silos and warehouses to store essential items. With some of these funds the silos in Shiraz and Zahedan with a capacity of 108,000 tonnes have been built and have now come into use. There are also adequate plans to create facilities to store essential items.

Oil and gas:
There will be an increase in the production of crude oil to the level of 450,000 barrels per day in 1991 compared with the previous targets mentioned for 1991 in the first program, and work to achieve a production of 4.5 million barrels a day of crude oil by the end of the Five-Year Plan. (Four million will come from oil-fields and 500,000 from the continental shelf.)

Crude oil available for export will increase from 1.976 million barrels a day in 1990 to 2.429 million barrels a day in 1991.

Gas injection into oil wells in order to protect them will increase from 80.2 million cubic meters per day in 1990 to 90.5 million cubic meters a day in 1991—an increase of 12.8 percent.

Six new wells will be dug as part of the Nar-Kangan plan in order to increase the production capacity of wells.

Three new wells will be dug as part of Aghar-Dalan plan in order to increase the production capacity of wells to the level of 210 million cubic feet per day compared to quotations in the program for 1991.

Some 13 new wells will be dug as part of Khangiran-(Gonbazli) plan in order to increase the production capacity of its wells.

There will be an additional two drilling rigs in order to increase exploration activity in 1991 as compared with previous plans.

Housing and Urban Welfare:
In 1990 detailed analysis was undertaken in order to implement the housing policies outlined in the Five-Year Plan. In order to produce more housing units and in order to put building materials to better use, a limit of 100 square meters was set for the foundation of buildings, if builders wished to get building materials distributed by the government. It was also decided that as long as foundations are within 100 square meter limit, their builders could receive 100 square meters in building materials. This policy could play a role in the production of more housing units. Those people who build several housing units will receive financial and other benefits.

The number of housing units that will come into use in 1991 will be 450,000 units covering 40 million square meters.

In 1991 the organization for urban land will make available the land necessary for the building of 95,000 housing units equal to 39.9 million square meters.

Construction will continue on 354 partly completed projects and 41 other projects will start. The expansion of water works providing drinking water in towns is another of the programs planned.

Work will continue on 153 partly completed projects and 11 more new projects will start on the construction of urban security facilities. Construction work on another 296 projects will continue and there will be 47 new projects to improve transportation in towns.

Roads and Transportation:
According to decisions taken, the transportation fleet in the country will expand. Five thousand trucks will be manufactured inside the country and another 5,000 will be imported. It has also been decided that tires should be given to transport fleets as needed. There have been technical and logistical facilities placed at the disposal of the country's ports which will help unloading procedures at ports and will reduce the backlog.

In 1991 there will be a network of 5,222 km of major roads built in the country. By the end of the year some 341 km of them will be ready for use.

The lower-grade roads which will be built in 1991 will total about 780 km of village roads and according to estimates some 220 km of these will come into use by the end of the year. Also, construction work on 2,772 km of all sorts of roads—highways, major, and lower-grade roads—will start.

During 1991 the volume of freight and passengers transported by the railroads will reach about 14 million tonnes of freight and 8 million passengers. This shows an increase of 7.7 percent in freight transport and a 14.3 percent increase in passenger transport as compared with 1990 figures.

It has been estimated that the Islamic Republic's shipping lines in 1991 will carry about 11 million tonnes of cargo to this country in 505 trips to all points throughout the world.

In 1991 in all about 8 million people, 91,000 tonnes of cargo, and 10,000 tons of mail will be carried by the airlines of the Islamic Republic and Aseman airlines, both on internal and external routes.

Electricity:
In 1991 there will be about 790 megawatts added to the current national capacity by new power plants. This includes the second unit of the Zargan power plant with a capacity of 145 megawatts, two units at the compound cycle power plant in Gilan with a capacity of 234 megawatts, four gas units at the Montazer-e Q'aem power plant with a capacity of 404 megawatts, and several small hydroelectric plants with a total output of seven megawatts. In this way the total capacity of the country's power plants will reach 15,000 megawatts next year.

In 1991 reconstruction work will be completed on the second unit of the Martyr Salimi steam-driven power plant (formerly Neka power plant,) with a capacity of 440 megawatts and the second unit of the Ramin power plant in Ahvaz with a capacity of 315 megawatts and these will be ready for use.

Next year construction on about 760 km of circuit lines carrying 220 kilovolts and 720 km of lines carrying 132 kilovolts will be completed and these will come into use.

It is estimated that in 1991 electricity will be supplied to more than 450,000 new subscribers which means that the total number of electricity subscribers will reach 10 million. It is also estimated that 2,000 more villages throughout the country will be given electricity which will bring the total number of villages in the country with electricity to 27,000.

Post and Telecommunications: According to Footnote 40 of the first program, the Islamic Republic's postal service will sign about 1,000 subscription contracts with government offices and organizations which will make redundant 2,000 messenger boys who will no longer be needed. This means a saving of 400 million rials in the current government spending. At present the efforts of the postal network have resulted in work starting on 50 services and postal projects such as changing birth certificates, issuing ration coupons, and applying and being accepted for university entrance examinations. The major programs for this sector in 1991 are as follows:

Utilizing 375 main and sub-post offices, 4,000 post boxes, and the creation of 100 postal delivery offices and mobile delivery units throughout the country.

Opening of the frequency control center at 'Ali-abad near Qazvin.

The installation of 650,000 telephone lines in towns and allocating 550,000 telephone numbers in towns.

Installation of 4,554 internal public telephone booths in towns and 873 long-distance public telephone booths.

The establishment of telecommunications links in 1,832 villages in the country.

Adding 22,000 automatic lines for internal long-distance calls and 700 lines for international calls.

To conclude my comments, I am certain that the discussions which my brother and sister deputies carry out will benefit the budget proposal which, in effect, is next year's program for the government of the Islamic Republic. It is hoped that all the respected commissions of the Majles, not only for the budget, but throughout the whole year, will look in detail at issues and programs in

the various economic and social sectors, with the cooperation of the appropriate bodies, thereby providing the adequate groundwork for making the tradition of planning in our society even richer.

12 Dec Session

91AS0366A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Dec 90 pp 5, 11

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Section—Yesterday morning an open session of the Majles was convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. In this session, after the remarks of representatives of Zarand, Varzqan, Quchan and Mr. Karrubi, the Majles was called to order.

Following is the text of the remarks by preagenda speakers and Mr. Karrubi and legislations approved by the Majles:

Majid Ansari, The Representative Of The People Of Zarand: We Demand Of The Children Of The Imam [Khomeyni] And Islam To Prepare Themselves For Striking Against And Destroying American And International Transgressors

The first preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Ansari from the constituency of Zarand. In his remarks, he stated: I had planned to speak before the esteemed deputies and the gracious nation about the issues of clergies and theological centers and also judicial matters. However, due to the fact that exchange of letters between the Majles and the Council of Guardians and broadcast of that esteemed council's views from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic resulted in certain uncertainties as well as raising some questions, I found it necessary to talk about the recent stated view of the esteemed Council of Guardians concerning the national budget supplement bill. It should be mentioned that I have no intention of weakening or, God forbid, insulting this sacred and grand institution. I have high respect for each and every one of its members and certainly those exalted ones [members of Council of Guardians] will welcome healthy intellectual discussions, viewpoints and perhaps constructive and well-intended criticisms. Bringing up questions or criticism from the Majles podium is aimed at broadcasting from public media issues that have caused confusion and questions in the minds of our alert and intelligent people. Naturally, they expect to hear the facts from their representatives before making judgment.

In the supplemental national budget bill for the year 1369 [starting 21 March 1990], the Majles deducted 10 billion rials from the budget of the Voice and Vision and allocated the same for the provision of the budget to increase the salaries of the oppressed government employees and contract workers.

In continuation, he added: In fact, I did not vote for this measure and consider other mechanisms more suitable for making up the deficit in salaries. However, the decision of the Majles is to be respected by all. The Council of Guardians maintains that this decision would lead to a halt in all or most of the programs of the Voice and Vision Organization (based on experts' evaluation). It has considered it contrary to Article 175 and Paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the Constitution which, ultimately, will results in the weakening of the regime and, thus, has declared it against religious law.

Firstly, as a member of the budget and planning committee with knowledge about budget issues and its corollary items, I state that reduction of this sum will in no way cause the complete shut down or major paralysis of the programs of the Voice and Vision. This matter has been presented to that esteemed council—in detail and accompanied with ample proof—by the esteemed chairman of the budget and planning committee. If the Voice and Vision Organization were to face budget shortages, it could remedy [the situation] by one of the following methods:

1. From the miscellaneous item number 503001, which is at the disposal of the government and the president. 2. From the item number 503127, related to the compensation for the current budget shortage, subject of the supplemental budget for the year 1369.

3. From the item number 42000, subject of unsecured loans, of article 20 of general expenses items. 4. From the specific item pertaining to the Voice and Vision that allocates RLS 32 billion for operational budget and RLS 9 billion for capital investment. The capital portion could be utilized to cover the reduction and its own shortage could be compensated from item number 503002 that covers the allocation of RLS 4 billion to the government as....[sentence as published]

In continuation, the speaker said: Therefore, it is evident that compensation of the shortage in the budget of the Voice and Vision has been possible through various means and the reasoning of the Council of Guardians by reference to articles 175 and 3 of the Constitution—merely because the Voice and Vision has been mentioned in them—has no legal and expert basis.

Secondly, even if some of the programs of the Voice and Vision may be eliminated, will it really result in the weakening of the regime and is itagainst the religious law? Does reducing some repetitious films, and at times harmful, or reduction of some programs such as foreign sport matches and such result in the weakening of the regime or applying pressure on the most deprived sector in the society—the civil servants? Is there anyone who can be indifferent toward the sorry state of wretched salary earners and government employees? Certainly the difficult living condition of salary-earners and their subsequent dissatisfaction will be more detrimental and causes more weakening to the regime than the reduction of some radio and television programs.

Thirdly, if the argument that reduction of the budget of an organization results in the shut down of some of its programs and ultimate weakening of the regime is an acceptable one on the basis of which the Majles is

confronted, then, perhaps the Majles should be completely closed down and the executive branch will be left in complete control.

The representative of the people of Zarand in continuation of his remarks said: The plan to investigate study the national budget is based on the premise that, considering the priorities and all aspects in relation to the financial capability of the country, every organization's share is determined. The Majles has acted to reduce the credits in some instances that were more important than the Voice and Vision—i.e., reduction in the defense budget, the intelligence budget and the presidential office budget—and adding them to other items such as eradication of deprivation and building public baths in deprived regions. Therefore, with this interpretation of the Council of Guardians, it can be said that, during the previous years the Majles has acted sacrilegious in regards to all matters of the same nature and the Council of Guardians has endorsed these acts.

He continued: Putting aside this issue is the unprecedented and truly surprising undertaking of the Council of Guardians in regards to the preliminary view concerning a matter that is planned for inclusion in the budget bill: The submitting of the foreign exchange budget together with the rial budget. Under the letter concerning the supplemental budget for the year 1369, the Council of Guardians has written; but the foreign exchange budget shall not be included in the annual national budget in the future. This view and logic was so unbelievable and amazing that many deputies and those familiar with legal principles as well as experts of budget and financial affairs were asking themselves in disbelief, "Is this really the statement of the Council of Guardians?". What new discovery in the Constitution has the Council of Guardians had in the ten years of the legislative life of the Majles to express such a point of view? However, concerning this strange and unique point of view, the following points deserve attention and are of significance.

Article 53 of the Constitution states that: "All receivables of the government shall be collected in the account of the treasury and all approved credits shall be allocated according to the law." In this principle, all receipts and payments of the government, without the mention of rial or foreign exchange, has been conditional upon the approval of the Majles and any manipulation and possession without the approval of Majles has been considered against constitutional law.

Based on Subarticle 72 of the National Budget Bill for the year 1362 [year starting 21 March 1983], the government has been obligated to present the foreign exchange budget along with the rial budget to the Majles and this law has been endorsed by the Council of Guardians. Also, on the same basis, every year, within the National Budget Bill, the foreign exchange budget has also been presented within the framework of Subarticle 29 and the Council of Guardians has endorsed it. Indeed, has there been a dominance of foreign economy on Iran during the past eight years? Have the Majles and the Council of Guardians worked in the direction of foreign domination during this period? And, his eminence the imam (God's peace be upon him) saw this and yet kept his mouth closed? (We take refuge with God).

In continuation of his criticism about the modus operandi of the Council of Guardians, the speaker said: In the detailed supplemental foreign exchange table of the Five-Year Plan, the procedure for the allocation of over $119 billion foreign exchange income of the country has been determined and the share of every sector from within various affairs of the country have been determined and the Council of Guardians has approved it. Has this been sacrilegious and reason for foreign domination?

Does the presentation of the foreign exchange budget to the Majles mean changing the national currency from rial to dollar and that the Council of Guardians considers it to be the reason for the dominance of foreigners?

Indeed, is accurate investigation of foreign exchange incomes and expenses of the country by deputies and various Majles commissions, along with debates and investigation of methods for acquiring foreign exchange and its use the reason for dominance of foreigners or rather giving the control of the wealth and the foreign exchange of the country to a few executive officials and experts? Not unless we regard the representatives of the people and the Majles as foreigners and consider the presentation of the foreign exchange budget to the Majles as the reason for the dominance of the Majles and the people's representatives. Only then does the "dominance of foreigners" has a meaning. Anyone who has the least of information about economic and fiscal matters knows that the study of the rial budget without investigation of the foreign exchange budget is in fact playing with numbers without any practical results and, indeed, is an empty and useless undertaking. Without determining the position and foreign exchange shares of each, how can the Majles determine the economic direction of the country and priorities of production in the agricultural sector, mines, industry and also priorities in the area of culture, research, development and reconstruction of the country, aid to liberation movements, the regulation of foreign affairs, strengthening the defensive capability and other important affairs of the country? Is this the meaning of the Majles being in charge of all affairs? Isn't dealing with the Majles—on which the imam (God's peace be upon him) had the greatest emphasis in maintaining its power and sanctity to the point that, in some necessary cases, he considered the votes of two-thirds of deputies to be effective without the endorsement of the Council of Guardians—in such a way in effect the disarming of the people's deputies in regards to the fundamental issues of the revolution and the regime?

In whose interest is the continued weakening, in various ways, of the Majles and the legislative branch of the country of which the Council of Guardians is a part?

I explicitly say that if the lever of investigating the foreign exchange budget is not at the disposal of the Majles, the investigation of the annual budget bill is a meaningless, empty and ridiculous affair. Henceforth, by using the great difference in the official and free rate of foreign exchange, executives can even alter the rial policies of the Majles. Therefore, certainly, the supervision of the Majles on the function of the government and economic as well as manufacturing sectors will not be possible without the ratification of the foreign exchange.

The speaker then pointed out: I regret that the recipients of bills and plans dispatched from the Majles and Council of Guardians are enforcers of that council of Guardians who cover the ten meter distance to the secretariat of the council in three days. Under such conditions, what hope we can have to reform the administrative structure of the country government?

The representative of the people of Zarand thanked the president and the government for presenting the foreign exchange budget of the country to the Majles and stated: We, at the Plan and Budget Commission, are now in the process of simultaneous study of the rial and foreign exchange budget.

The speaker then discussed the Persian Gulf crisis and said: American officials have announced that even after the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait that country's forces will remain in the region. While we condemn and consider unacceptable the present and future presence of America in the region, we demand of the children of the imam and Islam and the global popular resistance cells to prepare themselves for striking against and destroying American and international transgressors and expelling them from Persian Gulf.

He then pointed out that the decree of his eminence the late imam to execute Salman Rushdi cannot be annulled and said: The decree to execute Salman Rushdi is final and it is based on unchangeable divine decrees issued by the best possible and qualified judge, his eminence the imam (God's peace be upon him), and it cannot in any way be rescinded. It is the duty of every Muslim capable of implementing that decree to do so. If in any way I, personally, feel that I am capable of ending the shameful life of this mercenary of arrogance, I shall do so as a religious obligation.

In conclusion, in connection with the decree issued in the case of Nabovat Foundation, Mr. Ansari said: Concerning the regretful and astonishing news about the administrator of Nabovat Foundation who had been convicted by the 146 Penal Court and sentenced to two executions—which means two executions had been requested for the plundering administrator of this foundation—but his sentence was reduced by the 147 Penal Court to two years imprisonment subject to parole or clemency, certainly within the next four days the administrator of Nabovat Foundation will be released and shall laugh at those who lost their belongings and the rest of the people.

Fereydun Qasemi, The Representative Of The People Of Varzqan: As Long As There Are Narrow And Factional Outlooks, The People's Problems Shall Remain Eclipsed

The second preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Fereydun Qasemi from the Varzqan constituency.

He said: The taking shape of the newly established Islamic regime of Iran and its development on the world arena was among the hidden blessings of Almighty God. It was fruitful, at this time, as a result of the relentless efforts of the late leader and the dedicated people to Islam and velayat-ye faqih [guardianship of the jurisconsult] as well as the sacrifice of the blood of the most beloved children of this land. [passage omitted]

He added: Now that the beneficent God, from His kindness, has extended the shadow of a scholarly, learned, capable, wise, knowledgeable, pious and patriotic leader upon this people and the Islamic country, and also, now that God, from His generosity toward the people, has bequeathed the administration of the executive branch to a capable, wise, a true politician responsive to people, patriotic, learned, brave and selfless individual, it is only befitting that, in order to give our thanks for all this blessing and benediction, all the officials, those responsible, servants of the regime and the noble people endeavor—void of factional tendencies and with an attitude filled with love for Islam, the revolution and the people—to realize the aspirations of Islam and the late imam of the Islamic revolution. We must not allow the repeat of old discussions which, at times, were published in the press and, especially, those that were broadcast from the podium of the Majles. In principal, there are no rules in the Constitution nor in Islam barring the existence of parties or groups. However, fundamentals of cooperation and organization dictate that the interest of the society, people and Islam be taken into consideration and various groups and factions should try to surpass each other in doing good and beneficial deeds or in debates and discussions. On the other hand, if cooperation, organization, party, group and faction lack a correct basis for their actions and pursue sins, humiliation, slander, accusation and disrespect it is an obligation of the Islamic officials and the Moslem people to prevent their formation and act to disband them.

Mr. Qasemi added: Discussions that have come up in the past months and weeks, while they have caused tension in the society, they also had destructive effects in the society and, therefore, they should not be repeated. Such discussions by a few careless and emotional individuals may result in the flood-like movement of the alert, aware, dedicated people with strong belief in the leadership and may, in front of this Majles, prevent those individuals from entering this sacred place. This is when the sanctity of the Majles will be compromised. Those who played the music of opposition, be it against the government or any other of such sacred matters, must

know that they have chosen a bad time. In addition to the time they have also brought up bad issues of which I shall not analyze for the fear that the feeling of the society may be hurt.

He added: A wrong beginning, as it proceeds, shall have more wrong results. Regretfully, since there is no room for kindness and generosity, factions and groups are in pursuit of weakening, destroying and slandering each other. Such efforts have never been and will never be in the interest of the nation and the country. There have been such clashes that they have not permitted the important and fundamental discussions of the country to be brought up and resolved. As long as there are narrow and factional outlooks in the study of problems, the issues, difficulties, and the will of people will be eclipsed in the process. Deprived regions such as Varzqan will become more and more deprived and all this is at a time when the enemy's tricks, various factions, tricks of these arguments and mock political battles have lost their color and considering all these troubles, inflation and high prices, people do not listen to these clashes.

He added: The greatest victory is the study and discovery of the reasons and elements of failure so that by neutralizing them victory can be achieved. I suggest to those individuals, wherever they are, to review their behavior. At first you should prove to be brothers before you can demand the inheritance of the father. Come before this podium and other tribunes so that the sound can reach people's ears. Declare your belief in velayat-ye faqih and that you follow the leader. Come and say that you have voted for the government, trusted and completely supported and show one or two practical proofs. Then come and criticize, question, interpellate and bring the government to the Majles and question it as much as you wish and see if anyone is going to blame you! Except those inside and outside the Majles with ill intentions and designs, has there been any complaint or objection even at times when common people or deputies have harshly questioned or criticized ministers such as Messrs Nurbakhsh, Kalantari, Fazel, Nematzadeh, Mahluji, Najafi, Nejad-Hoseynian and other dear ones, including the president himself? Their reason has been that questioners considered themselves as a part of this country, government and the people. He questioner labors and suffers for this government. We have a deputy who works perhaps several time more than a cabinet minister. I do not accept the past confrontations of those individuals who have ill intentions. Not only I do not accept it, but also the society and the people do not accept it. I am a representative of the people and speak what they wish to say. Why should we not speak bluntly and instead engage in political games? Some have been taking such positions that were not even taken at the time of the war with Iraq and Saddam. If a deputy is the representative of the people and from the people in the street, he should know that, beside the exalted family of the late leader, that great remnant for the nation, if the people's heart in the past was beating only for the imam, today their hearts are beating for two invaluable remnants of the imam who are the exalted leader and the president. People consider the salvation of the country to be possible by the hands of these two. These two are among the great geniuses in today's world. We are Moslems and believe in and follow the velayat-ye faqih and support the government. If I fail to uphold the qualities of deputyship, as early as tomorrow the people will gather in front of this Majles and take back their votes. [passage omitted]

Mr. Qasemi added: The biggest problems of this revolution and country stems from dereliction of duties. Religion, science, logic and all the world have accepted this principal that man, in order to fulfill any of his needs, must seek the counsel of a guide or expert in the desired area. After the revolution—as the society was moving toward Islam, jurisprudence and theology—more attention should have been paid to this principal but this was not the case. Some groups and factions which were new on the scene, in order to impose themselves upon the society, assumed the role of jurists, experts, natural born jurisconsults. They wish to replace the true scholars, jurists, jurisconsults and original experts and crusaders of Islam. They the impostors offer their views, analyze and have no fear of anything. In addition, they use all political, economic and social facilities in order to impose their respective views and factions upon the society. This is dereliction of duties and usurpation of the situation. This leads to a situation in Varzqan where, from a population of about 100 thousand people, a few remain as revolutionaries and followers of the line of the imam and the rest become anti-revolution. The result of becoming self-made jurists is that, all of Iran was rid of the shah in the year 1357 [year starting 21 March 1978] but in Varzqan—with an innocent population in a deprived region—until a couple of years ago there were several tyrants and some of their evil elements still exist in the region.

In continuation of his remarks, the speaker said: Anyone who has analyzed and interpreted the line of the imam, without expertise and jurisprudence, has acted treacherously toward the line of the imam from the outset. The importance of uniqueness of the imam's line which is embedded in two principles, according to his eminence [the imam], is belief in the absolute rule of jurisprudence and total obedience to the guardian of the cause and trust and unequivocal support of the Islamic government. The first principle is his long-held belief dating back to pre-revolution which was the cornerstone of Islamic rule and he established the second principle in order to safeguard the revolution and the Islam. This analysis is evident in his divine political will as well.

In continuation, the representative of the people of Varzqan said: The result of dereliction of duties, factional games and deviations have seriously thrown back the situation in Varzqan by ten years and similar situations can be seen in other parts of the country. Everyone's duties—deputy, minister, judge and everyone else such as army, traffic bureau and police—must be written and posted above their desks. A series of ongoing factional and cliquish activities will ultimately hurt this

country in a way that cannot be mended. One day His Eminence Ayatollah Yazdi (with whom I have been acquainted for a long time) was subjected to disrespect in Tehran's Mehdiyeh and once in Tehran University when this Mr. Nateq-Nuri was inside the mosque the door was locked on him. I condemned these acts at that time. Today, Mr. Mohtashemi is being prevented from speaking from the pulpit in Kazerun. Another day, other gentlemen are subject to disrespect in the university. I condemn these two moves because, at that time, some cried that there is no freedom and today some are crying the same that, there is no freedom.

He said: I beseech the president to fulfill, as soon as possible, the promise he made to us in Azerbaijan. I request that appropriate instructions be issued to eradicate deprivation and the laws that are by themselves the cause of deprivation be nullified.

People expect that the management of the province be strengthened and it is hoped that, after the attention of the president and minister of interior, this matter can be expedited.

In conclusion he addressed the minister of roads and transport and minister of health and treatment and reminded them that, with the coming of winter, they should take expeditious action to harness the problems and shortcomings.

Mohammad Baqer Zakeri, The Representative Of The People Of Quchan: Officials Elected At Any Level Must Be Role Models In Piety, Revolutionary Zeal, And Freedom From Whims And Desires, Connections With Relatives, Friends, Groups, And Factions.

Mr. Zakeri, the representative of the people of Quchan, was the last preagenda speaker who in his remarks referred to the formation of Islamic government in line with realization of Islamic aspirations in human societies and said: No doubt, we have all read or heard that, according to Islam, holding a government post and achieving positions are not goals by themselves. They are merely means for realizing justice, freedom, independence, securing an honorable life for every one of the people and for achieving other high human and Islamic values. Even these values are not the objective. In fact, they are but means for preparing the grounds for development and growth of moral virtues and, ultimately, proximity of man to the divine creator which is the ultimate goal of "all other than God". In a society where poverty and discrimination rules, all efforts of human beings are aimed at "making a living", corruption is rampant, despotism and oppression prevent individuals from breathing freely, life cannot continue except through lies, flattery and imitation and, finally, in a society where Satan and satanic values rule, how can people in such a society enjoy divine growth and realize their ultimate capability? Therefore, formation of Islamic government shall be the necessary condition for realization of Islamic goals in mankind's societies. Thank God, after 1400 years, through the holy confirmations, detachment, bravery, jurisprudence, wisdom, cunning, social and psychological understanding of one human being who was trained in the school of Islam, Koran, the sacred house of the Prophet (upon them be peace) and Hoseyn (upon him be peace), Islamic government was formed in a corner of the world, which is Iran. As the founder of this government repeatedly stated: "We are only at the start of the road." However, the important factor is that, as the exalted leader said a few days ago: "We must watch the path on which we are traveling and not lose sight of the goal for even one moment." [passage omitted]

Legislations

The report by the parliamentary correspondent of Resalat from yesterday's open session of the Majles indicates that the report of the second round of deliberations of the Education and Training Committee about the bill concerning the formation of Special Education and Training Organization was discussed and investigated as the first item on the agenda. After some corrections, details of this bill were approved by the deputies.

According to the single article of this bill, in view of the importance and enabling characteristics of teaching and training handicapped students and children, ranging from blind and partially-blind, hearing impaired and partially hearing-impaired, emotionally disturbed and movement as well as tactile-impaired, according to this law, a government institution under the name "Special Training and Education Organization" shall be formed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education and Training.

The head of this organization shall be deputy minister of education and training.

Note 1 - This organization shall be exempt from the Government Workforce Adjustment Law and shall be subject to a special credit budget item.

Note 2 - All institutions and training units under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Education and Training presently engaged in this type of training and education or those deemed compatible with activities of this organization, based on this organization's regulations, shall be assigned to the said organization.

Note 3 - Ministry of Education and Training is obligated to prepare the articles of the constitution of this organization—which shall include objectives, council duties, organization and financial resources and also necessary advantages aimed at attraction and maintaining the required specialized work force (i.e. job incentives and teaching hours suitable with the teaching of the job)—within two months and present it to the Training and Education Committee of the Majles.

Note 4 - Fifty percent of the annual budget of the organization shall be provided outside of the accounting law. The government is obligated to provide adequate facilities and foreign exchange to the organization during the first five years from the time of its inauguration.

Note 5 - Five years of acceptable government service in this organization shall be considered in all aspects, including retirement, as six years.

Note 6 - As of the date of ratification of this law, all institutions active under the provisions of special education and training in the Education and Training Ministry and other ministries shall be placed under this organization's umbrella and all their properties, real and other, personnel, facilities and equipment shall be transferred to this organization.

The Majles will hold an open session on the morning of Sunday of next week.

Remarks By The Speaker Of The Majles

After the remarks of pre-agenda speakers, Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles spoke about the point of view of the Council of Guardians concerning the Supplemental Budget Bill.

He said: Some issues have come up which compel one to speak a few words to the esteemed deputies and the dear people. We are very careful to avoid bringing up matters that may cause the slightest of tension or turmoil. However, at times, certain issues are raised that allow us no recourse but to resolve them and hope that, God willing, they shall conclude favorably.

In continuation he added: The duty that you put on my shoulders when a number of you dear ones voted for me and I was elected to be in charge of the Majles compels me, as a religious duty, to defend the Majles in regards to the issues that are raised. This sacred institution, according to the imam, is above all affairs and after the position of the leader is the most important base in the institution of the Islamic Republic Regime. I state this for our dear people since the beloved deputies and many who are involved with laws are continuously aware of this matter. However, there are those who may not be aware. Our dear people note that the legislations approved by the Majles must be endorsed by the Council of Guardians. When a legislation is concluded, the speaker of the Majles signs it and refers it to the Council of Guardians. The Council of Guardians either endorses or expresses its views concerning the legislation and the matter is again referred to the Majles and corrected. However, if after several corrections, no agreement is reached, the legislation is then referred to the Expediency Discernment Council which is appointed by the leader. Also, when the Council of Guardians endorses a legislation, then the government is so notified. In Article 94 of the Constitution it is stated that: "All legislations from the Majles must be sent to the Council of Guardians. The Council of Guardians is obligated to study it from the point of view of its conformity with the principles of Islam and the Constitution within ten days of its receipt and if it is considered to be in contradiction, to return it to the Majles for review. Otherwise, the legislation is subject to implementation." In article 139 of Internal Regulations of the Majles, which is the most important law after the Constitution (because it must be approved by two-thirds of the votes) it is explicitly stated: "All the legislations approved by the Majles shall be officially sent to the Council of Guardians. If, within ten days after the dispatch or after the expiration of the ten day extension stated in article 95 of the Constitution, the Council of Guardians does not announce any objection, then according to article 94 of the Constitution, legislation is sent to the office of the president for signature." Of course I should point out to you that the Council of Guardians also has the right to extend the time limit, but its request must be received by the speaker of the Majles before the end of the ten days.

Referring to the notification of the Supplemental Budget legislation for the year 1369 [year starting 21 March 1990] to the Council of Guardians, Mr. Karrubi said: We sent the supplemental budget to the Council of Guardians on 28 November 1990 and a signed receipt is available. On the day when we had convened a closed and unofficial session for one and a half hours, one of our friends, the esteemed Mr. Movahedi-Kermani, during his remarks, requested that this discussion not be brought up. We heeded his request and did not discuss the matter on that day. When the public relations of the Majles had issued the notification, I called Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani, the esteemed secretary of the Council of Guardians, and said: "If we receive a response, we will be forced to bring the matter up and it would be best if no response is sent."

However, we even ignored the seventh day and counted the eighth day and until 8 December the Council of Guardians had ten days but did not express any views. On 9 December 1990 we dispatched the bill to the government. In this regard His Eminence Ayatollah Mohammadi-Gilani also stated: "It is absolutely correct, as you say this resolution had been received on the 7th."

Mr. Karrubi continued: I must humbly state that the legislation—unfortunately for the Council of Guardians and fortunately for us—was in an envelope with three other legislations and that envelope was handed to an individual. On the day when Mr. Hashemi presented the budget legislation to the Majles, the legislative office was contacted by the Council of Guardians and told that the legislation would be sent by 1:00 pm. The legislative office had responded: "We notified the government at 11 o'clock." Also, the esteemed Council wrote us two letters. In one it is stated: "Your letter was received on the seventh." And in the other letter it is stated: "Your letter was received on the tenth." Now you see, should we believe the evidence or the claim? In their announcement they said that it has been received on the seventh, but they had given it to a Pasdar [revolution guard]. Well, my dear brother, this is very clear. The dispatcher had come there during office hours and presented it and the receiver had been a Pasdar. The Pasdar to whom we refer, the street Pasdar, the Pasdar who is now our boss, the Pasdar who is in the embassy; there are many Pasdars who are presently university professors or also working on administrative issues. It is irrelevant whomsoever it was. The one who took the legislation on your

behalf and gave a signed receipt is the one to whom the legislation was given. Therefore, from here I declare to the government that it is obligated to act upon and implement that bill.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Karrubi referred to the reduction in the budget allocations to the Voice and Vision [Iranian Radio and Television Organization] and said: One of the undertakings implemented in the supplemental budget was to deduct one billion toman from the Voice and Vision and allocate it for contract employees who are among the poorest employees of the government. The issue of switching around within the budget is a customary undertaking. Now that we have a few days before the budget for the year 1370 [starting 21 March 1991] will be sent to the Majles, you show me a solution so that we do not face the same difficulties. We had previously taken votes so that nothing could be added to the ceiling of allocations for the 5-Year Plan and there is only authorization for moving the funds around. In this connection, some are unhappy due to regional and provincial problems. However, the majority in the Majles came and voted to authorize switching around without raising the ceiling. The Council of Guardians has considered this switching around (reduction in the allocations of the Voice and Vision) to be against the religion. We ask, what is against the religion? Switching around is a usual and customary undertaking that is being practiced everywhere. People say that these individuals are religious, educated and mullahs learned and we know them well. So many people teach Makaseb Kefaieh and Rasail [Islamic courses] in Qom. There are so many jurists, educated and experts in such matters and they may be able to explain what is against the religion. The gentlemen in their reasoning stated: It has been against the religion due to the fact that the Voice and Vision had programs, Islamic programs, aimed at struggle against arrogance and world heresy an if their budget allocation is to be reduced, it results in the dominance of arrogance and induces anti-Islamic propaganda and... I have nothing to do with these matters whether there is a budget or not, whether there is a way or not, and whether there is a program to combat arrogance or not. They show so many cows and donkeys every night and these are the programs that they schedule. Finally, I have nothing to do with these issues and I shall not address them. However, I must say this—that if this claim becomes the standard and basis that if the budget is reduced, it causes the spread of foreign culture, I ask the esteemed Council of Guardians, when last year we reduced the defense budget by 1 billion tomans (the defense that guarantees our honor, our existence and dignity), did they yell and scream or say that it should not be done? The Majles reduced it and we gave it to the Ministry of Intelligence. And the poor Intelligence Ministry thought that this was the end of the issue. The next morning, a group of deputies supporting the deprived and rural regions requested that 300 million tomans of this credit be allocated for construction of public baths and villages; and this suggestion was approved. We told the administrator of intelligence to be present here at all times because if he is absent for a moment the Intelligence will suffer losses. The administrator of Intelligence said: Sir, your very existence is depends on us and if we are not prepared for a moment, you will be blown up with your cars. He said: We are the ones who must neutralize covert conspiracies of world arrogance, hypocrites and leftist groups. Why are you reducing our budget? In any event, this issue was tended with such fanfare.

Mr. Karrubi added: At the time when this suggestion was tabled I was the chairman at the session. I did not even get up nor voted for the measure to take one billion toman from the Voice and Vision and give it to the civil servants because I thought that it is really possible that Voice and Vision may run into difficulties.

He added: Even a friend came and told me: Even if you do not want to vote, then why not leave and let friends who believe in the measure come and sit here. I said that I would stay and that I refuse to vote. But now something has taken place. And this switching around would have caused the same reaction regardless of where it was applied and it would have been said that if the switching is to take place, what does the Council of Guardians intend to do? What should the Majles do in the light of the danger it is facing? In any event, this is an issue that has come up. I will not mention what the Voice and Vision said in the aftermath of this bill and the meetings it held and the codes it established. The foreign programs announcer began to describe in codes as to what such and such a minister, deputy, opposition member, and supporter said. He described what the bulletin was, I mean that program, the reaction to which you know. Now for whatever reason its esteemed chief executive, the gracious brother of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani did this. We did not keep silent. We did not say anything in the Majles and that broadcast has been carried out and later, this reaction was aimed at the Majles. We came and announced our law and we announced it on that day.

He added: The Council of Guardians sent the supplemental budget and along with the supplemental budget—the legal time table of which, by the way, had expired—it had stated that the foreign exchange budget should not come to the Majles because the sending of the foreign exchange budget to the Majles results in economic and political domination of foreigners over the country. Of course we did not accept this and halted the study of the budget. As soon as the esteemed president felt that it had been halted and before we had the chance to inform him, he sent the foreign exchange budget and we announced that we were studying it. We announced its receipt and said that we will not study the rial budget separately from the foreign exchange budget. A poll was taken and the majority of deputies also voted, meaning that the budget has come, it requires work and it will be done and we are thankful. However, we must give this one explanation to the people. Our dear people should know that in the year 1362 [year starting 21 March 1983] in view of the fact that the foreign exchange rate was increasing and up to that point it was still 30 tomans per

dollar and considering that the artificial value and the market price of the dollar was far above the real price of seven tomans (being 30 to 40 tomans) and it had many problems—the consequences and losses of which were plenty—the Majles was kind in this regard and adopted the measure not to study the foreign exchange budget. Noting the losses and problems that befell the Islamic Republic in those one or two years when the foreign exchange budget did not come to the Majles, in the year 1362 a ratification was made in the form of note number 72 in reaction to the fact that the foreign exchange budget had not come to the Majles. Note number 72 required that the foreign exchange budget should come to the Majles. Therefore, the foreign exchange budget portion of this legislation has been naturally endorsed by the esteemed Council of Guardians and it was the law since the year 1362. The foreign exchange budget has been coming to the Majles and it has been consistently reviewed. All of a sudden, the Council of Guardians stated that the foreign exchange budget should not be sent to the Majles and they did this in the supplemental budget for that matter and not in the budget for the year 1370 [year starting 21 March 1991]. What is the meaning of this? Actually they should write a rejection. Now, for whatever reason they did not wish it that way, they wrote that it is not necessary that the foreign exchange budget be sent to the Majles because it results in foreign domination. We should have dollars, we should sell oil, we should have agreements with foreign companies, we have prescribed foreign borrowing and I voted for it to prescribe it. How is it possible that none of these bring foreign domination but if it the foreign exchange budget comes to the Majles and the Majles is present, expert committees are informed about the items and are aware of purchases and comings and goings and activities, these cause foreign dominance? Well, it is only natural that when such things are being done, the Majles must be present to face this situation. When foreign exchange rate is 141 tomans and is subject to such fluctuations, the Majles should not be present and informed?! If, God forbid, there are discrepancies, despite all their sincerity and service and considering the value we place on each and every one of the ministers, considering that we voted for them and they are from among the Moslem kids rose from within the Majles and outside and who have served Islam, the Majles must conduct its own supervision and be also present.

In continuation, the speaker of the Majles said: I told Ayatollah Gilani yesterday that if there is a discussion on this issue, we will be compelled to open the discussion. The radio and television did not broadcast our announcement of yesterday evening. And, we are forced to speak from here the Majles as long as this is the only place from where we can speak and express our views.

In continuation he said: I offer a suggestion in regards to this issue. There has been anothere similar suggestion. In no way do I intend to determine a course of action for the exalted leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamenei. As a suggestion from a humble and obedient person and as the one responsible for the Majles, I offer this suggestion. A similar problem also came up during the time of the imam. A similar confrontation came up between the Majles, Supreme Judicial Council and the Council of Guardians concerning the issue of Islamic punishment. The response was not received within 10 days and the Majles announced the law to the Supreme Judicial Council for implementation. All the correspondence of the Council of Guardians are available in detail. The Council of Guardians declared that some of the matters are against religious law and must not be implemented. It notified the then president to prevent their implementation and he the president ordered that it be halted. Ayatollah Ardebili wrote a long letter to the effect that this is not within the rights of the Council of Guardians and why should it enter into areas that are not within its jurisdiction. Ayatollah Khamenei the president, in turn, sent his response. In any event, after correspondence between the speaker of the Majles and others, the matter was referred to the imam. The imam dispatched some individuals and told them to go and bring the issue to a point where, ultimately, the view of the Majles is approved and implemented. Therefore, it is my suggestion and view, without trying to determine a course of action, that someone, or the exalted leader himself, can have both sides to express their views and he, himself, resolve the issue. Whatever his decision may be, his order shall be obeyed. We will comply. Or, some people can be appointed through whom the Majles can resolve its differences with the Council of Guardians concerning these issues and matters that are considered against the religious law. Either this suggestion can be implemented or, it is my second suggestion that, if the exalted leader does not wish to get involved in such issues, on behalf of the Majles I declare that, we can invite several deputies from the religious and legal group and the Council of Guardians to participate in a debate. We say what we want to say and they can express their views. There are many political, legal and jurist individuals in this society who can listen to us and they can judge and say who is wrong. Has the Majles gone beyond its limits or, God forbid, the Council of Guardians is being unkind? We are obedient and support the first suggestion. Again I emphasize, for the third time, that I am not trying to suggest a course of action for Khamenei and say what he should do. It is obvious that issues are expanded and continuous. Tomorrow, we will be facing the same issues. Either we should go by the first suggestion or we should say what we have to say. People will understand. The imam has helped so much so that the people can grow. He has taught them understanding and has trained them, himself. The revolution has raised the people's understanding. We will say our piece and they can express their views. We will express our views even in regards to the tensions of the past two or three months. We say what we have to say and they say what they wish. The people are wise and understand the issues. They are capable of analyzing and able to understand what is being said. They understand the hidden expressions,

what is behind the issues and what is hidden in the issues. They will know the gist of what the issues are all about.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Karrubi stated: With much regret, we were informed of the dire situation and disturbing condition that have befallen the Moslem population in India and the massacre of those innocent people by extremist Hindus who attacked and destroyed the mosques and massacred innocent people. We ask the government of India to confront the situation in a serious manner. Moslems there lack security and their lives, belongings, honor and homes are endangered. They are being massacred there and the world is watching. The government of India is standing by and watching. Is the government so incompetent, so powerless, so incapable. In any event, we ask the government to tend to this issue expeditiously and be sure that one billion Moslems in the world, fifty million Moslems in Iran and freedom-seeking people are perturbed about this issue. The Hindus took over the mosques and destroyed the places of worship and martyred the Moslems—which has been broadcast from radios. We offer our condolences to their dear families and express our sympathy with these dear ones. [passage omitted]

16 Dec Session

91AS0378A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
17 Dec 90 pp 5, 8

[Excerpts] Legal and Parliamentary Section - The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after remarks by deputies from Sarab, Mianeh, Tehran and Sari the Majles was called to order.

Following is the text of pre-agenda speeches and the legislations approved by the Majles.

Mohammad Ali Haqqi, Representative Of The People Of Sarab

The first preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Haqqi, the representative of the people of Sarab. [passage omitted on praise for Khomeyni and Khamene'i and the laws and law makers in Islam and the need for unity]

Musa Salimi, The Representative Of The People Of Mianeh

The second preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Musa Salimi from the Mianeh constituency. [passage omitted on praise for Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, the Majles, and the need to be cautious about what is said and written to prevent the weakening of the system]

He said: Certain things are being said or [certain] phrases are being written in various forms such as: "America came or will come. Or America will be brought [in] and it is being considered [to bring America in]. Hezbollah has been pushed out of the circle. Or [it] is being pushed out of the circle or Hezbollah is no longer on the scene. The rights of the oppressed has been disregarded or the rights of the downtrodden are not taken into consideration and not given enough credit. Or, they are not paying attention to civil servants and neglect the respected contract employees. Or, They don't listen. Also, it is being said and written that our foreign policy is not a pleasant one, it's weak and not good. Or they say that our economic policy is not good, lacks growth and [its growth] has halted. Or, they cry out that holy-pretenders hamper the implementation of justice and progress. Or, alarmingly state that the Council of Guardians does not act appropriately and try to portray their views as distorted. Or, they yell and scream that municipalities collect self-assistance [fees] and upset people. Or they say that we have no freedom and it is being taken away gradually." Also, hundreds of other issues that our dear nation sees, hears and reads. I ask all [these] gentlemen, what is your proof and reason for your statements and writings? They fail to produce any reason or convincing proof. The reasons they state, as we see, stem from factional tendencies, thirst for power, desire to rule or as a result of lack of knowledge about national issues and world affairs.

He added: All these slanders, lies, unfamiliarity and accusations end up weakening the sacred position of the leader, weakening the Majles, weakening the government and alienating the servants, weakening the youth and students and, ultimately, and weakening the regime. This is the most unforgivable sin. May God protect us from the evils of these lies, ignorance, impieties, ambitions and the desire to rule.

Mr. Salimi added: We all know that Saddam the aggressor, the well-known criminal government of Iraq has transgressed against Kuwaiti soil. This was God's punishment dealt against the government of Kuwait because they gave billions in money, arms, food and areas of influence to Iraq with the hope of overthrowing the Islamic government of Iran. God vanquished them instead. And, finally, Iran moved to condemn this aggression as well as America's aggression and deployment of their military and war materiel into the region. Both transgressors, both guilty parties, both criminals, both unjust tyrants, both expansionists, both hungry wolves and savage animals must leave the region in which transgression has taken place. They, and especially America, should leave without any precondition. One transgressor cannot punish another one. One who has tasted the fruit is no longer fit to advise others otherwise. America must leave and the government of Iraq must evacuate Kuwait (without granting it the slightest gain). The people of Kuwait should decide on their own about their administration and determine their government and its type through referendum and correct elections without any [interference].

Mr. Salimi emphasized: The Government of Saudi Arabia committed the greatest crimes against Islam and

Moslems. They allowed the heretic, tyrant and pleasure-seeking American soldiers to enter the sacred divine shrine and the center of inspiration and prophecy and thus demonstrated their dependence [on America]. They subjected themselves and believers in Islam to misery. May God damn them and do not forgive them [for their sin].

He pointed out: In connection with [the issue of] Palestine, more than any other time we need unity in expression and solidarity. Moslems must unite, hold each others hands, show sincerity and discard deceit and trickery. In propaganda aspects, economic, political, cultural, and war materiel, they must make a serious and concerted effort to liberate Palestine from the grip of Zionists. Therefore, I ask all Moslems and freedom-seekers to join hands and save these afflicted people from the tyranny of Zionists.

In conclusion he thanked all the managers in the city region of Mianeh and requested from the Ministry of Roads and Transportation to finalize the works that are already being implemented.

Abbas Sheybani, The Representative Of The People Of Tehran

The third preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Sheybani from the Tehran constituency. [passage omitted on need to avoid luxuries and need for unity]

Ezatollah Damadi, The Representative Of The People Of Sari: The Culture Of The Revolution Will Vanish If Production Declines And We Fall Behind Other Developing Countries In Industrial Technology

The fourth preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Damadi from the constituency of Sari. In his remarks, he said: In the world today, the Islamic government of Iran is the only government established based on the principles of Islam and [centered] around the pivot of velayat-e faqih [the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult].

The foundation and base of this government is the precious Islam and its pivot is the velayat-e faqih. Our people who have nurtured this great tree of Islam with their blood allow that some individuals under the guise of concern to damage its roots, the roots which have been watered with the blood of our martyrs.

It is because our people are of the opinion that the rule of velayat-e faqih means the rule of knowledge,justice, and truth and, thus, consider obedience to the jurist as a duty and requirement.

He then discussed the performance of the government during the past 15 months and said: At the onset of Mr. Hashemi's government, the enemy had occupied the border regions and even great parts of the soil of our Islamic land. Today, with the grace of God, with the implementation of Resolution 598 and acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Treaty this problem which faced our nation has been removed. Freedom of our dear POW's has been among the good performances of the current government of Mr. Hashemi. Collection of over RLS 200 billion in cash from the bazaar and directing it to banks, giving confidence to the private sector and restarting a significant number of factories with full capacity, provision of raw materials and [achieving an] acceptable level of production have been among the good deeds of the government. It secured the national budget [at first] by borrowing over 51 percent of the budget from Bank-e Markazi [Central Bank], reduced it to 28 percent in the year 1369 [starting 21 March 1990] and proposes [to borrow only] 15.8 percent in the year 1370 [starting 21 March 1991]. If this trend continues, by the year 1371 [starting 21 March 1992] this [borrowing] will be zero.

In continuation he said: This is in lieu of the forecast of the Five-Year Plan that [borrowing] will reach zero by the end of the plan. The decline in the rate of growth of inflation from 28 percent to 7 percent, raising the national reconstruction budget by approximately 3.5 times and, also, increasing the national budget for the year 70 by 56 percent are among the very good undertakings of the current government. There is indication of 300 percent increase of production in the sectors of mines and metals, agriculture and manufacturing. Continuation of this trend will have a profound effect on improving the [economic] health of the society.

Increasing the salaries of civil servants was assigned a special priority by the government and a part of which has been approved while another part is under study. Are these not among the positive undertakings of the government?

In continuation of mentioning the achievements of the government, the speaker said: Among the fundamental undertakings which serve as principled and essential investment in the country are: The plan to construct 20 concrete dams by the end of the [Five-Year] plan, the expansion of power plants and construction of electric power generating water dams of Karun and Karkheh, the work on Mobarakeh Steel [plant], post and communication, railroad, roads, universities, hospitals and national dispensaries, rural road networks and other, as well as ratification of the government's first Five-Year Plan, regulation and organization of investments. These be among the achievements of the government. In the year 1357 [beginning 21 March 1978], the per capita production of goods and services amounted to RLS 114,000. In the year 1367 [beginning 21 March 1988] this figure was reduced to RLS 55,000 which showed a 53 percent decline.

The representative of the people of Sari then stated that the reason for the decline in investments in previous years was the lack of security in the markets. He said: Through propaganda, it was always being depicted that the tendency of capital toward production will result in a specific group becoming rich. By false pretenses and illogical slogans, the capital has automatically moved towards brokerage and middle-man services. The result

was that a limited few, without having to do any work, added billions of tomans to their wealth overnight and investments in manufacturing sector declined by 45 percent. Inflation and unemployment have appeared in unfavorable forms and, on a daily basis, costs have been increasing while investments in manufacturing sector have been declining. The results of these are the statistics that show us: In the 67 national budget about 51 percent of the borrowing has been from Bank-e Markazi, which was in effect the printing of money without backing, and the rise of unemployment and increase in the rate of growth of unemployment from 7 percent in the year 1357 [starting 21 March 1978] to 14 percent in the recent decade.

In continuation, the speaker added: Of course, at the time of war all these are acceptable and bearable. However, is the past trend acceptable and bearable at the time of reconstruction? In addition to reduction in the budget deficit, harnessing inflation and absorbing the cash [capital], (in this period) production and industry has had a noticeable growth. It is such that, based on the statistics of the Ministry of Industry, during the first seven months of the current year from 41 items of manufactured goods under the cover of that ministry there has been reduction in production of only four items while other items have shown increase in production by up to 470 percent. All those charged with setting the economic policy consider the reconstruction period as an uncontrollable period. Is it not true that during the period of reconstruction there is dire need for calm, unity, friendship, solidarity, work and endeavors?

In continuation, the representative of the people of Sari added: Today, except the exalted leader of the revolution, no one can claim to be more concerned about the revolution and regime than Mr. Hashemi. If one dares to make this claim, such a claim should be looked upon with suspicion. Why is it that some for election propaganda and rethoric in their speeches question all values of the government? [I ask] those who claim that the past culture has substituted the revolutionary culture, is such talk not unfair? Is it not true that cabinet ministers are from among previous ministers and some [were] our colleagues [in the past]? What baseless and illogical talks are these that you provide to foreigners for their use? How is it possible that we keep the reconstruction limited by political limitations and not attend to the difficulties, shortages and national rehabilitation in the face of over 3.7 percent population growth? Will the revolutionary culture be a foregone conclusion if steps are taken in the direction of self-sufficiency and national rehabilitation? The culture of the revolution will be undermined if domestic production faces decline and we fall behind other developing countries in industry and technology and, thus, be forced to go hat in hand before foreigners in order to provide our daily sustenance.

In continuation, he said: The culture of the revolution will be saved when we join hands in brotherhood and unity and endeavor, shoulder to shoulder, to improve the [situation of the] country so that not one unemployed, one homeless and one needy can be found in the society. The culture of the revolution can not be safeguarded through division, factionalism, conflict, group tendency, band affiliation and [political] hullabaloo.

The representative of the people of Sari gave following notices to the president:

Firstly, building permits given by municipalities should be reviewed. It has caused unfavorable conditions in all cities.

Secondly, directive should be issued to all executive organizations instructing them to hold their meetings after office hours. At times, people have to wait long hours behind the closed doors of meetings for a signature.

Thirdly, under present circumstances closing down of the organizations within the Ministry of Commerce which are in charge of provision and distribution is necessary because they cause stagnation in imports and exports.

In conclusion, on behalf of all the deputies from Mazandaran Province, the speaker thanked the minister of roads and transportation and asked him to expedite the restoration of services of Azedegan Airport of Sari and reestablishment of HOMA [national airline] flights.

Agenda Of The Session

In yesterday morning's open session of the Majles, 124 deputies presented the double-category urgent legislation on the the Constitution of Sistan Reconstruction Organization. The double-urgency of the plan was put to vote and passed by the majority.

According to the report by our correspondent, based on the single article of this legislation , the government is authorized to ratify the constitution of the Sistan Reconstruction Organization. Also in this session the legislation for membership of the Majles in the Inter-Parliamentary Union which had been returned by the Council of Guardians was approved after incorporation of changes required by the Council of Guardians.

According to this report, the third item on the agenda was the request of a number of deputies in regards to returning the "Islamic Penal Code Bill based on article 85 of the Constitution" to the Judicial committee of the Majles. This request was approved by deputies. [passage omitted on university entrance examination]

19 Dec Session

91AS0377A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
22 Dec 90 p 5

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Section - The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after remarks by the deputy from Aligudarz, as the only preagenda speaker, Mr. Karrubi made

some remarks in connection with the anniversary of martyrdom of Dr. Mofatteh which was presented in the previous issue.

Following is the text of the speech by Aligudarz deputy and the legislation approved by the e Majles.

Ali Mohammad Ahmadi, The Representative Of The People Of Aligudarz: Keeping The People On The Scene, As The Primary Pillar Of The Islamic Revolution, Is Possible Only By Safeguarding The Legitimate And Lawful Rights Of The People

The only preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Ahmadi, the representative of the people of Aligudarz. In his remarks, in commemoration of 18 December, the Clergy-Student Unity Day, he said:

In the years after 1354 [beginning 21 March 1975], in the days of oppression and when the despotic regime of the shah, with force and deceit, had placed high on its agenda the breaking of popular bonds and the unified connection which existed between various sectors, ranging from seminary students and students to workers and farmers, and had ordered the closure of the bustling and revolutionary training center of Hoseyniyeh-e Ershad, Martyr Dr. Mofatteh began holding sermons and speeches at the Qoba Mosque and [once again] connected the two forerunners of the Islamic revolution, the [university] students with seminary students. It was this connection that intensified the flames of the revolution. The ringleaders of the regime who in the previous year—in the aftermath of crushing the protests in Qom's Feyziyeh Seminary—had announced in their newspapers that a number of seminary students had rebelled under the instigation of Sheikh Ahmad Karrubi (may God place his soul in heaven) were filled with fear and the great prelude to the Islamic revolution was set in motion with the solidarity of students of seminary and university and eventual awareness of various strata of people. These connections continued to take shape after the victory of the revolution and emerged as groups which ultimately appeared in the from of the Solidarity Enhancement Office which gave birth to a revolution greater than the first revolution. This [trend] proceeded one after another by the Moslem students who followed the original path.

In continuation he added: This awareness and solidarity of students and defense of the strongest sanctuary of the nation, which is the legislative branch and the Islamic Consultative Majles, continued against a "well known group" that aimed to protest against the Majles. The continuation of this solidarity and an ever-increasing awareness guarantees the revolution's movement through the difficult path before it and toward goals and objectives of the gracious imam.

Mr. Ali Mohammad Ahmadi then attacked the faction opposing his own line and said: Individuals who consider themselves victors with the conclusion of the "Assembly of Experts" issue have moved the discussions from the podium of the Majles to seminary centers and university, Friday Prayer podiums and gatherings and the Voice and Vision, which is at their disposal, and by conducting speeches and bringing up [certain] matters pursue their objectives. One of the brothers in his speech in the Esfahan University declared: "Was the authority of His Holiness Ali (peace be upon him) [the rightful successor of prophet Mohammad according to Shiites] any less than the Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) in the early days of Islam so that the same conclusion may be derived regarding the authority of the leader of the revolution [Khamenei] and that of the imam of the nation (God's mercy upon him)?" I shall ask here, "in the early days of Islam and later, did followers of Ali (peace be upon him) in order to lobby for his leadership negated the Prophet (God bless him)? Why is there suspicious attempts to eliminate the name of the prophet of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, from our principal slogans? Isn't the fact that the words "Mohammad (God bless him) is the prophet of God" follow the words "there is no God but Allah" the reason for the existence of the words "Ali is the friend of God"? [The first two sentences are in the Islamic witness accepted by all Muslims. The third is accepted largely by Shiite Muslims]. Didn't the exalted leader say: "Without the name of Khomeyni, this revolution is not recognized anywhere else in the world."? Who are the ones who, from the pulpit of Friday Prayer, try to eliminate the phrase, "Khomeyni is the leader" after the phrase "God is great"? May be the assertion by those who believe that the path of the imam may be separated from that of the revolution by eliminating his name would turn out to be true! At the same time, I shall warn, be careful that serious defense of the imam is not depicted as opposition to and negation of the leader. Let us not allow the sacred phrase of "velayat-e faqih" [guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult] to be abused by those who have not known [the meaning of] "velayat-e faqih" but wish to turn it into a truncheon and smash the heads of those who have spread and taught [the concept of] "velayat-e faqih" in this country.

He then added:

There is room for complaint when one of the most powerful, concerned and selfless managers of the revolution describes friendly criticism, although it may not be completely correct, by using the word "nagging". Does he wish that there were no criticism—which is certainly not the case? Under circumstances when one of the selfless and pious students of the imam—whom we should value—charged with the management of the regime at a time when hopes for passing through the hard times are greater than ever before.... However, it cannot be denied that, with the existence of [various] foreign exchange rates—such as the government, preferred, export, competitive, free government and free black market rates—the market is seriously hampered in the path to achieving goals. We proclaim that, now tendencies of all the rates are toward the highest foreign exchange rate which is increasing daily and is reaching the RLS 1500 per dollar mark. Japan, with its unique

characteristic, was able to endure only one year of multiple foreign exchange rate system and quickly pulled itself into a balanced rate. As a member of the plan and budget committee, when I look at the plans and items, I can see that we must consider to double the forecast which was made by the executive branch in the year 66 [beginning 21 Mar 1987] in order to finish those projects. This will certainly inflate the budget by several times.

The representative of the people of Aligudarz then asked: What mechanism and system is there for controlling the prices in the case of the leach-like individuals who imported goods by taking advantage of export rates? This is a fact which we are witnessing; prices are rising to conform to the highest level of foreign exchange rate. On the other hand, violating the rights of the most deprived sector in the society, the salary earners and, especially, educators, the [unfair] sellers are trying every day to find a reason to raise prices. Concerning the issue of the measly increase in salaries, at one time with the excuse of the interview by Mr. Razavi, the secretary general of the administration and employment affairs organization, once with the excuse of the passage of the bill by government, once with the excuse of the presentation of legislation to the Majles committee and, in another phase, with the excuse of its passage by the Majles they [the sellers] increase the prices.

The speaker pointed out: Keeping the people on the scene, as the primary pillar of the Islamic revolution, is possible only by safeguarding the legitimate and lawful rights of the people. Twenty three of the articles of the Constitution, Articles 19 to 42, address this issue and the likes of this [emphasis] cannot be found in any other regime. It ranges from the rights of women, protection of the sanctity of life and possessions, prohibiting the abuse of freedom of conscience, freedom of the press, preventing censorship, freedom of political parties and groups and other rights of the people. These are among the honors which—under the shadow of the law of Islam—are included in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic's regime. We are proud of this [Constitution], which is the price of the blood of martyrs and, God willing, is what we seek.

Legislations

[passage omitted on bills on Sistan Development Plans and election of Planning and Budget Committee]

Based on this legislation, the Majles committees shall be as follows:

1. The Plan, Budget and Economic Affairs Committee comprising of Plan and Budget, Economy and Finance, Administrative and Employment, Commerce and Accounts.

2. The Production and Infrastructure Affairs concerning oil, energy, industries and agriculture.

3. The Social Affairs and Services Committee, within which all the committees tasked with providing services are grouped together. These consist of Revolution Institutions Committee, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Hygiene, Treatment and Social Security.

4. The Culture, Art, Education and Research Committee in which all cultural, educational and research matters shall be grouped. The Culture and Higher Education Committee, Education and Training Committee and Islamic Guidance and Culture Committee shall be part of this Committee.

5. The Security and Policy Committee in which all matters concerning the internal security, matters even concerning any threat from foreign countries to security and independence of the country and all domestic and foreign affairs issues shall be grouped together in this committee and shall cover all affairs concerning defense, foreign and domestic policy and, also, intelligence.

6. The Investigating Questions and Complaints Committee. Both committees which are formed in the Majles on the basis of articles 90 and 88 of the Constitution shall be combined.

7. The Legal and Judicial Committee which shall be tasked with the investigation of all legal and judicial matters.

8. The Transportation and Communication Committee which shall be comprised of all matters related to post, communication, railroad, aviation and all other related matters.

9. The Investigation Committee which shall be active in connection with the study of deputies' credentials.

10. The Internal Guidelines Composition Committee.

After the above explanations, Mr. Movahedi asked the Majles to cast positive vote to the generalities of this legislation and bring up their corrective suggestions during the second round of deliberations.

After the explanations by Mr. Movahedi-Saveji, deputies in favor and against this legislation stated their viewpoints, but, due to shortage of time, continuation of deliberations on this legislation was postponed until the next open session of Majles.

[passage omitted on letter condemning killing of Moslems in India]

23 Dec Session

91AS0389A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Dec 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Section - The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, after remarks by deputies from Sabzevar and Rasht, as preagenda speakers, the speaker of the

Majles spoke briefly in regards to the martyrdom of the administrator of Cultural House of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lahour. Also, in this session Mr. Najafi, minister of education and training, responded to the question of the representative of Naqdeh and Oshnoviyeh.

Following is the text of the remarks by pre-agenda speakers, statement of the speaker of the Majles and ratifications of the Majles:

Hoseyn Harati, The Representative Of The People Of Sabzevar

Undermining Unity And Disheartening The People Is Not Acceptable From Any Source Despite Their Position And Rank.

The first preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the e Majles was Mr. Hoseyn Harati from the constituency of Sabzevar.

While offering his condolences on the occasion of martyrdom of the administrator of the Cultural House of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lahour, Pakistan, he asked Mr. Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's prime minister, to act expeditiously and decisively to identify and punish the culprits in this crime.

He added: I say to the blind-hearted and ignorant enemies of the Islamic revolution that the love of the Islamic revolution in the hearts of the people of Pakistan is not like a candle that may be put off by the blow of such breezes. Indeed, it is an everlasting and burning torch the flames and heat of which intensify and become more scorching with such breezes. [passage omitted]

He pointed out: Much has been said concerning the unity of the society as the most noble and fundamental pillar of victory and continuation of the Islamic revolution. And, many pens have been activated to emphasize upon this noble principle. In all fairness and righteousness, whatsoever is said and written in regards to this grand issue will be still small and insignificant compared to the significance of the subject. However, generally in all of the eras and generations and until the rise of the sun [reference to the appearance of the hidden imam] and specially at this time, two points must be the subject of intense attention and thought. The first one is that, the everlasting pivot of our unity and our divine regime is none other than the exalted position of vali-ye faqih [the guardianship of the supreme jurisconsult] and it is he who, from atop the high point of the mount of guidance and dignity, ensures the correctness and continuation of the path in conformity with Islam. It is he who opens the dead ends. It is he who states the final word as to the beginning and end of all things . It is he who gathers the dispersed forces and gives them form. And, in a nutshell, it is he who gives soul and shows the way.

The second point: According to our late great imam, one of the worst impediments to the society's solidarity are those who are the go-betweens and they must be watched. Those are the ones who benefit from disunity and grow in the environment of dissension. By disavowing and discarding temptations, enticements and whispers of dissension by dissenters and their agents, the shinning and hope-inducing face of solidarity should be wiped clean of the dust of their deviations.

Here, I humbly warn all keepers of pen and possessors of intellect that today the world arrogance and its evil off-spring aim to strike against the Islamic revolution with a double-edged sword. One edge of which is the breaking of social unity and the other edge is disheartening the people about the Islamic revolution.

He added: Without any doubt, it must be unequivocally stated that anyone, in any position and rank, who utters a word in speech or in writing not necessarily about breaking the solidarity but undermining it, not necessarily about bringing the people to the brink of despair but disheartening them is in the rank of the worst and unforgivable enemies of the Islamic revolution. No excuse or defense by anyone in this category can be accepted. We can say nothing except that, Satan has entered his head and drags him toward darkness and oblivion.

Mr. Harati added: I say to the innocent, resisting and heroic Palestinian brothers that you have succeeded to halt and defeat the most formidable technology and the war machine of the West deployed in the occupied territories with the most basic weapon—stones. While offering my congratulations on the occasion of this great and shining victory, at the outset of the third anniversary of Intifadah and heroic martyrdoms, the good tidings of victory can be observed on the not-so-distant horizon.

He added: The fact that the Zionist enemy is responding to your throwing stones by firing] bombs, missiles and live bullets precisely demonstrates the weakness, desperation, systematic failure of the sly enemy and his entrapment in a dead-end. It is exactly like a person who responds to a logical and basic statement by swearing and slandering because of lack of any response to a right statement. On the other hand, that person considers his very existence in danger and on the verge of destruction. Therefore, due to necessity, that person may miserably resort to any action in order to save himself. I have total confidence that, in the path of defending Islam and Islamic aspirations, the more martyrs you offer, the more the face of your revolution will be bloody and red and victory will be more forthcoming.

He emphasized: Your throwing stone at Zionists brings back to memory the repelling of devils in a revolutionary and constructive pilgrimage. By repelling the trinity of devils, the God-seeking and idol-smashing Abraham was able to come out of the great divine test successfully and rise atop the great peak of victory and leadership imamate of the nation. Also today, the first satan, America, the second satan, the regime occupying Jerusalem, and the last one, reactionaries in the region, hand in hand and bound by an evil pact aim to create barriers

and hindrances by engaging in conspiracies and various schemes to prevent you from ascending the plateau of dignity and victory. You are duty bound to pursue your goals decisively and steadfastly and must not pause on this path. The great leader of this caravan and the inspiration of your revolutionary and smashing movement in the world of Islam was our gracious late imam and utilizing the prophet-like guidance of that "Example of all times" [Khomeyni] as well as your heroism and relentless resistance, you have succeeded in creating such amazing and enemy-breaking epics. Also today, for continuation of your relentless struggle and on the path of the movement of Intifadah, you must follow the righteous and suited inheritor of Khomeyni, the flag-bearer of the struggle against world arrogance, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and the guardian of the cause of Moslems, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. This is the only desirable path for achieving the goal. "We made them leaders, guiding men by Our command." [Koranic verse]

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakht: The Representative Of The People Of Rasht

Strengthening The Majles Is The Necessary Condition For Strengthening The Regime And Adequacy Of This Condition Can Be Achieved By Strengthening Other Forces And pillars.

The second preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Nowbakht from the Rasht constituency. In his remarks, while offering his condolences on the occasion of martyrdom of Sadeq Ganji, he referred to the situation in quake-stricken regions and said: During the past six months—besides rendering emergency services, setting up tents and delivery of food—5,000 units of temporary Kankas shelter have been set up in the regions of Lowshan, Manjil, Rudbar and Rostamabad and seven large camps have been set up in order to gather together the afflicted inhabitants of the region.

In continuation, he added: This is separate from the about 64,000 units which have been set up by the esteemed Ministry of Interior as temporary housing. From this, 40,000 units have been set up by the esteemed Governorate General of Gilan in cooperation with the attached governorates. During this period, in conjunction with implementation of basic projects, about 400 tons of plastic, 70,000 square meters of wood, 8,000 galvanized steel sheets and 400 tons of nails have been distributed and used for reconstruction efforts. Perhaps stating these activities does not depict a clear picture of the extent and magnitude of the operations. However, a figurative comparison may be helpful. Considering that at least 1.9 billion tomans have been absorbed, which is over 200 percent of the current budget of the province, clarifies the outline of this executive undertaking. This is in view of the fact that constructions have been taking place in mountainous and impassable areas and in a scattered manner.

The speaker then thanked the minister of interior, his colleagues and specific governorate generals—especially governorate general of Gilan—for their efforts and endeavors in this connection and said: Of course, this does not mean that problems of the afflicted people of the quake-stricken areas have been completely resolved. There are still other problems that must be resolved through permanent reconstruction and rehabilitation. The success of passing through this phase hinges upon at least two factors. One is making available to the people the designated 300 million tomans credit facilities—with 4 percent interest and term of 18 years—in order to ensure the continuation of activities in proportion to the work progress. The second factor is that, the needed building materials must be provided. This is in consideration of the fact that, under the present circumstances, the allocated rial credit can expedite reconstruction efforts only with availability of building materials at government prices. This is subject to allocation of foreign exchange which is needed for this purpose. Fortunately, with the foreign exchange income earned from the sale of oil, full allocation of $300 million have been made possible as a result of the resolution passed by the Majles in the month of Tir [22 Jun-22 Jul].

He then asked the minister of economy and finance and governor-general of the Central Bank to take appropriate actions in this regard.

The representative of the people of Rasht then said: With the consideration that the decision and completion of the offered services—aimed at alleviation of problems of the afflicted people—shall take place as a result of allocation of foreign exchange in accordance with the passed resolution, it must be noted that the implemented activities by the Ministry of Interior for reconstruction is separate from services of other executive organs such as Roads and Transportation, Hygiene and Treatment and Education and Training. Only during the past six months, the Organization for Reconstruction, Expansion and Equipment of Schools has succeeded in repairing 3311 classes in 572 of the designated education units, setting up of 197 tent classes, installation of 52 classes with Souleh and installation of 124 classes with Kanks.

In conclusion of this part of his remarks, he offered his thanks and appreciation to officials of the Reconstruction Organization of Education and Training Ministry for their relentless efforts.

In regards to h the investigation into the Education and Training Ministry, the speaker stated: Investigation is the right of the Majles. In view of their responsibility toward the people, deputies must use this lever of supervision for the sake of well being of the society, guiding executive organizations and, ultimately, strengthening the Majles.

He then said: As a Muslim, and not merely as a member of this Majles, I consider the strengthening of the Majles as the strengthening of the sacred Islamic regime and consider the efforts, statements and writings of those

who knowingly act in the direction of weakening the Majles as animosity toward Islam. However, with a systematic and regulated view, strengthening the Majles is a necessary condition for strengthening the regime—to which we are all obligated—because the Majles is a national pillar and government branch, and the adequacy of this branch may be achieved by strengthening other branches and pillars. Certainly, however, the line of strengthening the Majles at the cost of weakening other branches is not a path upon which the dedicated and thoughtful deputies walk because, in the framework of strengthening the regime, nobility and health of every spoken word and deed depends upon their lack of contradiction with the safeguarding of fundamentals and pillars of the Islamic Republic. I draw inspiration from the guidance of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution in the recent gathering of officials of the country that, differences of opinion is permitted and can be tolerated as long as it does not harm the collective form of the regime. On this basis, the use of the authority of the Majles—which takes place for implementation of the law, realization of the will of his eminence the imam (may God's mercy be upon him) and following the orders of the guardian of the cause—must be endorsed and accommodated. Therefore, the request of a number of the esteemed deputies concerning the inquiry and investigation of the Education and Training Ministry is a logical matter the endorsement of which by the Majles is a natural one and there is no room for complaints or worries. Thus, they must cooperate fully with the investigative delegation for clarification of facts.

The representative of the people of Rasht expressed his apprehension about the modus operandi and the method of implementation of the investigation and said: When on the front page of daily newspapers the public is urged to come forward with any and all documents against the Ministry of Education and Training, is it not the dissemination of worrisome information to the people rather than gathering any information? Does this mode of operation not induce an atmosphere of suspicion toward a ministry of the Islamic Republic?

Perhaps, it may be perceived that the people should know the truth. However, is that of which the officials of this ministry are being accused—as it is being perceived—absolutely true when nothing has yet been proven? Although Article 153 of the Internal Majles Regulations is mute with regards to the method of implementation of Article 176 of the Constitution after the passing of the Majles resolution concerning the investigation and inquiry of the Education and Training Ministry, but, was there not another method similar to those used in previous investigations conducted by the esteemed committees so that friends and foes would not be informed of issues which have not yet been proven? The reason for such behavior was that the result of the investigation was pre-determined. There was no need for a public invitation on such a level. No doubt friends are not happy. I noted regret and worries about such behavior in many deputies with whom I consulted. Does this not cause the Majles to be more resistant in regards to future requests for investigation and inquiry? Taking into consideration that investigation and inquiry is one of the essential functions of the Majles and a tool devised for its supervisory role, I suggest that Article 153 of Internal Majles Regulation and its attached notes be corrected and improved in order to provide a better balanced internal regulation guideline.

He then pointed out the unfavorable repercussions culminating from the implementation of Note 60 of the National Budget Law for the year 64 [starting 21 March 1985] and said: Based on this permanent notee, government organizations have been barred from any type of hiring—even in the form of contract employment. Apparently, the reason for such a prohibition should be considered as economizing the current expenses and balancing the work force. However, in practice, due to expansion of organizations—especially in universities and hospitals—which have taken place due to necessities, a dire need for a service oriented work force can be felt. In order to fulfill this dire need and adhere to the aforementioned prohibition, all units have been compelled to resort to article 5 and act upon hiring workers and employees through agreements with service companies. Like trading firms, these companies identify the work force and by paying minimum wages set forth by the Labor Ministry—3,000 tomans per month for single employees and 4,500 tomans per month for married employees—put them at the disposal of government offices and, in return, receive 6,000 to 7,000 tomans per month for each from the General Budget. These workers—mostly from among the deprived and the downtrodden within the society—work for the government of the Islamic Republic, through these commercial middlemen, without the necessary motivation and financial security and under the most worrisome conditions. Presently, in one of the ministries 7,900 of these individuals are employed through 84 service companies.

In conclusion, he said: I have conducted extensive and practical investigation concerning the results of implementation of note 60 of the National Budget Law for the year 64. God willing, I shall make available to the esteemed deputies the documented, regretful and worrisome statistics and figures which depict a picture contrary to the goals of the Islamic revolution, support for the deprived and downtrodden, social justice and, and even, the national economic interest and advantage.

Remarks Of The Speaker Of The Majles

After the remarks of preagenda speakers, at the outset of his remarks Mr. Karrubi offered his congratulations and sympathy on the occasion of martyrdom of the administrator of the Cultural House of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the city of Lahour, Pakistan. He then said:

What is important and should be the focus of attention in regards to this martyrdom is the nature of the crime and the conspiracy which is at work. Apart from the the issue that Martyr Sadeq Ganji was Iranian, this move

was aimed at undermining Islamic solidarity, the unity of the Moslem nation of Pakistan and for starting the fire of division and cooling down the spiritual bonds between the Iranian nation and the Pakistani nation. This is the same as martyrdom of 'Aref Hoseyni which was perpetrated by criminal elements of world arrogance and Wahabis.

In continuation, he added: Enemies of Islam, this region and the peoples of Iran and Pakistan must know that awareness and wisdom of the peoples of Iran and Pakistan surpasses such matters and their spiritual bond cannot be severed. This is a tragedy for the people of Pakistan as well as the people Iran. The demonstrations, the funeral procession and ceremonies that were held are indicative of this fact and reality. The importance of the matter is that, responsibility of the government of Pakistan in regards to this crime is very heavy and, God willing, it can follow up and fulfill its responsibility, arrest the elements who perpetrated this crime and reveal the nature of the conspiracy.

In conclusion, the speaker of the Majles asked the government of Pakistan to steadfastly follow up this issue and present its report to the peoples of Iran and Pakistan.

Ratifications Of The Majles

The first item on the agenda in yesterday's open session of the Majles was the continuation of investigation of the report of the first round of deliberation by the Internal Regulations Codification committee concerning the legislation to amend Article 42 of the Internal Regulations with regard to reducing the number of committees and combining those with similar functions.

After remarks by opponents and proponents and the statement of the clerk of the Regulation Codification Committee, generalities of the legislation were put to vote which did not pass and were rejected.

Election of Majles representatives to supervise the elections of National Islamic Councils in line with implementation of Article 73 of the amendment to the Law of Formation of National Islamic Councils was the next item on the agenda of the Majles. In the ensuing election, Messrs Ashrafi-Esfahani, Rashidiyan and Hoseyni al-Madani from the Councils and Internal Affairs Committee and Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi and Mrs. Dabbagh from the Article 90 Committee were elected. [passage omitted]

The Majles will hold an open session on Wednesday morning.

26 Dec Session

91AS0406A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Dec 90 p 5

[Excerpts] Legal and Parliamentary Section - The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Karrubi.

In this session, 18 deputies requested the interpellation of the minister of hygiene, treatment and medical training.

Following are texts of remarks of pre-agenda speakers, remarks by the speaker of the Majles and ratifications of the Islamic Consultative Majles:

Hassan Ruhani, The Representative Of The People Of Tehran

At This Very Sensitive And Important Juncture We Must Confront And Oppose Divisive Elements And Those Who Disrupt The Unity Of Society

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Dr. Hassan Ruhani, the representative of the people of Tehran. In his speech, after offering his congratulations on the occasion of birthday of His Holiness Jesus [Christ] (may God's peace be upon him), he referred to the important and destiny-making issue of the Persian Gulf crisis and said: At this juncture, the most important issue directly linked with our national security and national interest is the events and crisis in the region. We can divide the events and regional crisis into two categories. [Firstly], the issues and consequences directly linked with the crisis in the region—occupation of one country by another country, the Muslim people of Kuwait becoming refugees, blockade of Iraq and the pressure of life on the Moslem people of Iraq, resolutions of the United Nations Security Council]—and, [secondly], the presence of foreign aggressor forces in the region and, consequently, events which we shall await their unfolding in the future days—the start of a war or Saddam's capitulation and withdrawal of Iraqi [forces] from Kuwait without bloodshed and other issues or consequences which may follow. So far, the Islamic Republic of Iran—through adoption of decisive, independent and calculated positions based on Islamic and revolutionary principles—has chosen the most precise and correct path for itself, one which is the cause of pride and dignity for Moslem people of Iran and all admirers of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He then referred to the control of energy resources and oil of the Persian Gulf region and said: Perhaps this issue has been one of the most important objectives of Iraq leading to the occupation of Kuwait and presence of foreign military forces. As you well know, from 167 countries in the world only 81 possess oil and petroleum reserves. The total world petroleum reserves of the world amounts to about 900 billion barrels of which 80 percent belong to OPEC members (which are 13 countries). Within OPEC, those [countries] which possess considerable amount of oil reserves and capable of producing even after the year 2000 are only six countries (Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Venezuela are the world oil superpowers). These six countries possess about 700 billion barrels of oil which amounts to about 76 percent of the world reserves. If we put aside Venezuela which has reserves of less than 54 billion barrels, the five countries in [this] region possess

70 percent of the world petroleum supplies. It means that oil exports, the future of oil, the future of the world, the future of energy and the future of economy of the world hinges upon these five countries. During the past ten years, the world supply of oil has diminished by 41.4 percent while during the same period OPEC countries enjoyed a 51.8 percent increase in their reserves due to the discovery of new reserves. Therefore, if there is mention of superpowers, one superpower is the Persian Gulf region. If regional countries were all independent, the real superpower would be in this region and America and others would not be superpowers.

In continuation, the speaker added: America is a country which consumes 17 million barrels of oil daily and Europe consumes in excess of 12 million barrels per day. Altogether, America and Europe consume 30 million barrels of oil. Therefore, the issue of energy and control of oil supplies is among the most important issues. Perhaps, sooner or later, the crisis in Persian Gulf will be resolved—with war or peacefully—and the only thing which will remain—and we as well as other Moslems of the region must confront in the long term—is this conspiracy. This conspiracy headed by America is in the process of implementation. The Islamic republic of Iran, Moslem countries in the region and all Moslems must stand firm in the face of this conspiracy. Control of oil, control of production, control of exports, control of sale and control of pricing of oil is in the hands of none other but oil producing and exporting countries. Other do not and will not have the right to make decisions about this great and national wealth of the world of Islam and Moslems will not grant this permission to transgressors.

In another part of his remarks in connection with the issue of policing the regiona, the secretary of the High Council of National Security pointed out: The Persian Gulf region is the hot bed of the most important and crucial crisis in the world because of the existence of oil, gas and energy supplies, the great wealth which exists in the region (the money which will be earned from the sale of oil—be it saved, invested or used to import goods) and also because of this region's special political importance. Dominance over the Persian Gulf region means dominance over the most vital region in the Middle East and the world at large. One of the objectives foreigners pursue in the region is policing this area and you see that they bring up the subject of balance of powers. They discuss if a particular country has nuclear capability or not. Do Pakistan, Iraq and others possess this capability or not? They even bring up the subject of altering the geographic [map] and changing governments. Of course one of Iraq's objectives for this aggression was to become the gendarme of the Persian Gulf region, leader of the Arab world and etc. When foreigners came to this region, led by America, one of their objectives is dominance over this region. Previously Americans had kept the shah in the region as the gendarme to safeguard western and American interests. Later they thought that perhaps Iraq may be able to fulfill this duty. Today however, they have reached the conclusion that they must directly take on the role of policing the region and this issue is of utmost importance. If we do not stand up to this conspiracy and confront it, it will be a shame for the region, the world of Islam, the administration of Islamic countries and especially the security of the Persian Gulf—which is the task of the regional countries. The motto of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a logical one, a correct one and directly in line with confronting the American conspiracy and that is the establishment of regional security by countries of the region and without the presence of foreign forces.

In continuation he added: Taking into consideration that this issue is extremely crucial for us and other countries in the region, we must be active in our foreign policy within the region and consider the intense competition between Europe and America in regards to this region. We must expand our relations with Europe and, thus, stand up to this conspiracy and confront it although the basis for the confrontation against the conspiracy of the west and America is "alertness and awareness of Moslem nations". We, within our own Islamic country and at this very important and sensitive juncture, must confront and oppose divisive elements and those who disrupt the unity of society since solidarity will be the most crucial issue for us.

In conclusion of his remarks, Dr. Ruhani emphasized: The imam said: "Whatever smells division is no doubt from Satan." And on another occasion the imam said: "We shall be mindful of acts that may prompt the world to think that the Islamic regime of Iran, with such differences in taste and demonstration of division, shall never be on the path of resoluteness."

Therefore, we shall confront the words and the pens of divisive mercenaries and no doubt—by following the guidance of the exalted leader, the solidarity of the Islamic nation and self-sacrifice of the Iranian nation—God willing, we shall confront all conspiracies and the final victory shall be that of "right against wrong".

Khodanazar Qasemi, The Representative Of The People Of Dashtestan

The second preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Qasemi from the constituency of Dashtestan. [passage omitted on praise for Sadeq Ganji]

The speaker then referred to the recent earthquake in Dashtestan and said: Although it was the will of the Almighty that this quake did not take any lives and for this reason people are thankful to God, but the strength of the earthquake caused much damage to residential units and administrative as well as service installations. However, regretfully, the necessary attention has not been given to this issue by the authorities and they treated it uncaringly. This is at a time when people's homes in the villages of Dashtestan and the city of Borazjan have been greatly damaged by deep cracks as a result of the earthquake. Some of these houses have lost structural balance and were damaged seriously making

them uninhabitable. Despite all this, authorities have announced the damages as minor. This issue has greatly saddened and disappointed the good and sincere people of Dashtestan.

Considering that earthquakes are ongoing and all the people, especially small children, live in constant fear there is dire need for tents [but] regretfully, tents are not being put at the people's disposal and they suffer great discomfort and pain in severe cold.

He then asked the officials to implement the necessary actions in regards to providing tents and dispatching experts to investigate and determine the extent of damages.

In continuation the speaker added: In my inspection of the region, I witnessed severe damages to people's homes while—as of yet—in most areas no one had come to investigate the extent of these damages. This problem is the cause of deep sadness among the people. It must be taken into consideration that among the afflicted are those who lack the ability to put one brick upon another and whose situation deserves the attention and serious consideration of officials. We must pay heed to avoid that the same humble people who were physically present on the scene every time the need for their presence was felt, under the present circumstances when many of them require the attention of authorities, God forbid, be subject to disregard and neglect. The consequence of such a situation shall result in irreparable losses. [passage omitted on the need to help low income people]

Hashem Hejazi, The Representative Of The People of Khoy

In Today's Tumultuous World When Truth Is Transformed Into Falsehood, [The Truth Of] Religion, Piety And The Islamic Republic Of Iran Becomes More Crystallized

The third preagenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Hejazi from the constituency of Khoy. After offering his congratulations on the occasion of the birthday of his holiness Jesus [Christ] and endearing martyrs from among Muslims of India and Palestine, in his remarks said: In this tumultuous world where technology, industry, politics and economy are aimed at degrading the humanity and transforming the truth into falshood, the the splendour of religion, piety and the rule of the Islamic Republic of Iran becomes more crystallized. The Iranian Constitution has put forward the Guardianship of the Supreme Jurisprudent as an ideological crystallization which is followed and while it regulates the ideological affairs, it plays an important role in exporting the revolution to the tumultuous world. It is a clear and effective cause for the continuation and export of the revolution. This is none but the wish of the deprived in the world. In this regard, we owe our debt of gratitude to the genius of the imam of the nation and the sacrifices of the self-sacrificers of the revolution. We revolted in order to pay attention to deprived regions and the poor. [In regards to] tax increases, which are a necessity as a system of control on inflation in the society, we carelessly rush forward at times without paying attention to the corollary issues. In this regard there are those who believe in Islam and revolution and, because of their Islamic dedication, while paying appropriate taxes also pay religious tithes. As a result of which, at times, they lose all their belongings. Therefore, it is appropriate that increases in the prices of petroleum products and domestic goods be strictly prevented.

In continuation he added: In Tehran and [other] city regions, by fabricating new laws, the esteemed mayors are subjecting the citizens to very heavy fees in order to extract higher earnings. Have they taken into consideration the fact that the economic power of this selfless strata has dwindled and the capital which is controlled by the rich is used to further deteriorate the lot of the poor? Henceforth, at times we witness the bankruptcy of honorable people. In light of this, I request from the sacred presence of the Majles to consider all aspects of the problem concerning the fabrication of taxes and fees in order that we fulfill our religious obligation.

In regards to wiping out centralization, the representative of the people of Khoy said: The fundamental move toward eradication of deprivation in deprived regions, which is indeed the breaking of Satanic traditions of the past, is the establishment of scientific centers in provincial capitals. Let us prevent the migration of youth by establishing universities, schools and scientific, vocational and agricultural training centers in deprived regions and, thus, bring about progress in science and culture in remote and deprived regions. Of course, the esteemed Majles is aware that salaries of contract employees and pension earners is at a low level and with a little attention their morale can be boosted.

In continuation he added: The centers which have been forgotten in the budget are the Relief Committee, the Life-Improvement Committee and, especially, the Blood Transfer Committee while it is possible to achieve self-sufficiency with little attention and prevent the import of blood agents.

The speaker requested from the Plan and Budget Committee of the Majles to include large reconstruction projects which require financing through provincial budgets and proceeds from note 16 to be included with national projects.

In conclusion, the speaker gave some notices to officials, including ministers of roads and transportation, culture and higher education, petroleum, interior and housing and urban development in regards to problems facing his constituency.

Remarks Of The Speaker Of The Majles

[passage omitted on the need to help low income people] He added: This week is the Week of Literacy which [also] coincides with the [anniversary] of the imam's decree in

connection with the establishment of the Literacy Movement. It is shameful for an Islamic country to have a large portion of its population still deprived of the blessing of literacy, science and knowledge. At the time when the imam issued the 28 December decree, he said: Schools, mosques, religious centers and homes must be mobilized and turned into centers of education and training and only through such a mobilization it is possible to uproot the shame of illiteracy.

Thank God, as a result of the efforts and struggles undertaken by the Literacy Movement and officials of the Education and Training all over the Islamic Iran and as a result of unequivocal support of the imam, through endeavors of executive officials in the past and present and inexhaustible support of the Majles, the Literacy Movement has taken big steps especially during the current year. Based on the report presented by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Qara'ati, the volume of work has been increased approximately three fold and presently over 2 million people all over our Islamic homeland are under the blanket of the Literacy Movement and, God willing, the shame of illiteracy shall forever be wiped from the face of our country.

He added: I ask the officials to support these sincere forces and educators more than before.

In continuation, the speaker of the Majles said: The seventh of the month of Dey [28 December] is also the anniversary of martyrdom of His Eminence Ayatollah Ghaffari. In all the movements, the forerunners and those who resist during the years of oppression and carry out the strugle always enjoy the honor and recognition of being known by those follow them and being praised for the path they chose. Even the ensuing movements are the product of their selflessness. Indeed, working and functioning in a lonely environment while being deprived and under pressure is a very valuable endeavor and this value must be safeguarded for ever. The fact that our dear imam emphasized on those who had gone to the front, those who had tasted the sufferings of prison, those who were martyred, and those who struggled during the days of oppression and tyranny was so that to safeguard these values for ever.

One of these individuals is Martyr Ayatollah Ghaffari. From the onset of the movement and revolt of our dear imam which began in the year 1341 [starting 21 March 1963], this martyr was actively present. My first acquaintance with him was in the year 1342 [starting 21 March 1964] in Tehran's police jail where I spent some time with him. This gracious and capable scholar stood firm to fulfill his covenant until the time that he drank from the cup of martyrdom inside the shah's prison.

While expressing his sympathy and offering his congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of Ayatollah Ghaffari's death, Mr. Karrubi expressed hope that all remain loyal to these dear ones, be sincere compatriots for them, follow their path and guard their [spilt] blood so that this revolution which has been victorious as a result of the toil of the imam and the selfless Iranian nation shall, God willing, continue and join the rise of His Holiness Mahdi (may God hasten his appearance).

Ratifications Of The Majles

The legislation to appellate Dr. Fazel—minister of hygiene, treatment and medical education—which was put forward with the signatures of 18 deputies was announced to have been received.

This is the first appellate legislation concerning ministers of the cabinet of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Also in this session, the legislation to amend budget allocations was considered. Three rows from part two of the attachment to the National Budget Law for the year 1369 [starting 21 March 1990]—the double urgency of which was approved in the open session of 23 December 1990—were deliberated upon . After remarks by opponents and proponents, the clerk of the committee and the representative of the Ministry of Hygiene, Treatment and Medical Training, it was not approved by the deputies.

Also in this session 84 deputies of the Majles in a letter requested double-urgency provision for the legislation for selection of attorney(s) by various sides in disputes. After the statements of proponents and opponents the double urgency provision was approved.

In explaining this legislation, Mr. Sholeh Sa'adi, the representative of Shiraz, stated: In fact attorneyship is [a form of] contract in Islam and every individual has the right to pursue matters that does not require one's personal attention through an attorney.

He added: In several places, the Constitution has specifically emphasized on the right of selecting attorney by various sides in disputes—especially since a lawyer's job is a specialized one and most ordinary individuals lack the ability to defend themselves or their position. As a doctor's assistance may be sought for a cure, lawyers must be consulted in order to defend a right.

In conclusion he said: Presently, many people have files [cases] in courts and magistrates and they lack the capability to defend their rights. Signatures of about 90 deputies [on this legislature] is an indication of this necessity.

Also, two bills were announced to have been received as follows: 1. The bill for the Constitution of the Geographic [Mapping] Organization of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran 2. The bill for formation of regional councils of education and training.

The Majles will hold an open session on the morning of next Sunday.

RESALAT Reports 1 Jan Majles Session

91AS0518A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
2 Jan 91 pp 10, 11

[Excerpts] Legislative and parliamentary division - In the open session of the Majles yesterday, presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles spoke briefly in honor of his holiness, Jesus, congratulated all the Christians in our country on the New Year, and expressed hope that following the heavenly decrees and instructions will make possible the fight against corruption and injustice in all parts of the world. In this session, the credentials of Mr. Shafi'i, the representative of Fuman, were ratified. Also, Dr. Najafi, the minister of education, responded to the question of the representative of Ahar concerning the replacement of the director of education of Ahar. Below are the pre-agenda speeches and the ratifications of the Majles.

'Eynollah 'Ala', The Representative Of The People Of 'Aliabad Katul

Global Oppression Has Set Its Efforts, With All Its Might, On Cultural Invasion Through Obscene Pictures, Clothing, Makeup And Films And The Spread Of Improper Veiling.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles was 'Eynollah 'Ala' from 'Aliabad Katul electoral district. [Passage omitted on the need to value constructive criticism.]

The representative of the people of 'Aliabad Katul also emphasized the necessity of confronting the cultural invasion of global oppressors by making use of cultural programs through the mass media and said: The Islamic revolution was an explosion of light. It is a revolution of values, and its nature is also cultural. The Islamic revolution is a complex of instructions and restrictions based on the Koran and tradition. For this reason, it is the most perfect moral standard for nurturing divine and god-like human beings. Yes, only the instructions and restrictions based on the Koran and tradition can guide human beings to perfect salvation in this and the next world. But the implementation of the instructions and restrictions of Islam requires a particular Islamic environment.

He considered providing the proper environment for nurturing human beings and the growth of moral virtues in the members of the society one of the duties of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Islamic revolution is its observation of veiling and Islamic chastity. The veil worn by the Muslim, revolutionary, and lion-hearted women of Iran, in all the glorious scenes of demonstrations before and after the revolution, has especially shone as characteristic of the Islamic revolution, and we must make an effort to preserve, observe, and strengthen it. He said: Global oppressors know well that they cannot easily have influence and a presence in a country in which chastity is a virtue. Hence, with all of their might, they have attempted a cultural invasion in the form of obscene pictures, clothing, makeup and films and the spread of improper veiling and have invested millions of dollars in this area. The preservation of the gains of the revolution dictates that we confront this propaganda cultural invasion in any form possible and, making use of cultural programs through the mass media, deal decisively with those who knowingly and intentionally act to implement the plans of global oppressors.

Mr. 'Ala' mentioned the culture of comfort seeking and consumerism as one of the obstacles in confronting the foreign cultural invasion and said: Creating self-reliance in the people of the society has been recognized as one of the precious values for development, so that individuals are able through self worth to avoid becoming instruments in the hands of politicians and the powerful. Although this value and the other values of development, that is, the ability to provide such essential needs as housing, food, clothing, health, and treatment, are related, to a great extent, much depends on the views of the government and planners in the society. In other words, since the preservation of the values and gains of the Islamic revolution is very important, as long as the government programs are founded on the preservation and rule of these values, without losing self-worth and feeling inferior, one can tolerate poverty and continue joyfully toward a better and more fruitful future. But with the rule of material comfort and being polluted by consumer and imported culture, it would be difficult to preserve honor, prestige and Islamic and revolutionary identity and to defend our Islamic identity against the foreign culture.

Continuing his speech, the speaker mentioned that fair distribution is a necessity for economic growth and decrease in the poverty level and said: Reliance on economic growth without fair distribution is an experience that resulted in failure in the 1970s and is no longer accepted by economic experts. The theoreticians of growth believe that in order to achieve a high level of growth, the distribution of income must be unfair as much as possible, because the rich save more than the poor and investments and economic growth require savings. Hence, the economy and growth are at the fingertips of the rich and powerful. They claim that when growth increases, through a natural process of trickling down, whatever falls out of the hands of the higher level is sufficient for the lower levels. He emphasized: This kind of thinking must be warned against. The per capita income alone will not reduce poverty in the society. Rather, it is possible that with the growth of per capita income, the number of poor increases. Only the fair distribution of revenues within the framework of proper economic and supportive plans can decrease poverty while the economy is growing. A country may have a lower per capita income compared to other countries and have fewer poor people. For example, in 1975, the per capita incomes of Taiwan and Guatemala were equivalent, and the number of poor in Guatemala was more than twice that of Taiwan.

He also enumerated the production obstacles of the country and said: The permission to increase prices because of the higher rate of foreign currency cannot alone increase production and bring about economic growth. The problems of production in the country are not confined to the rate of foreign currency. Rather, numerous problems, including the consumption composition, non-productivity of the economy, the excessive output of services, lack of trust in future investments, confusion resulting from the limits of the authority of the government and the private sector, the high interest rates, lack of possibilities for the production sectors to avoid tax payment, being under increasing controls, inaccessibility to precise and categorized information in regards to needs and potential and real capacities in national production in various areas, and lack of trust in the level of government support prevent the formation of a production system in the country. Otherwise, the sale of currency at open market or competitive rates or leaving the prices [to be determined by the market] not only cannot solve any economic problem in the country, but is a kind of enforced tax on the oppressed and the vulnerable strata.

Continuing his speech, the representative of 'Aliabad Katul emphasized the elimination of oppression in the villages and said: International studies show that about 80 percent of the poor in Asian countries are rural people, regardless of whether they live in villages or due to hardship and inability to find work in the villages have become marginal dwellers of the cities and engage in spurious jobs and perhaps work which is contarary to the dignity of society . Hence, one of the essential actions of the government of the Islamic Republic must be to eliminate poverty and deprivation in the villages of the country. It is also certain that without understanding the nature of poverty and the geographic location and its expansion, to fight it will be impossible.

He added: Giving subsidies and financial aid to farmers is accepted in the world today. Developed industrial countries, despite their outward assertion of relative superiority, subsidize their farmers in regards to such staples as wheat, rice, sugar cane, and coffee. And although the cost of raising such crops is much higher for them than the international prices, due to the vital importance of these goods and in order to protect and preserve their farmers and not having to depend on other countries, they engage in the cultivation of such products, in contradiction to the theories fabricated by their scholars which can only be used in the Third World countries.

He pointed out: Industrial exports are fine in their proper place. But relying on them to gain foreign currency revenues to import essential and strategic agricultural goods is playing with fire and ignoring all the interests of a revolutionary country, which is the target of various short-term and long-term conspiracies of the global oppressors. The following statistics show in part the importance of this issue. According to international statistics, in the 1972-1982 decade, which was the height of a free economy in the West, the per capita subsidy of England was $136, Japan about $91, the United States about $38 and Iran about $32. In the 1983-1985 period, the United States and the European Common Market spent about $60 billion each in support of agriculture. In the three years of 1980-1983, Japan paid about $51 billion in subsidies, which is in addition to payments to the vulnerable strata. Although in 1988 there was a slight reduction in and elimination of subsidies in the United States, in order to make a pretense to other countries and to reach its own goals, the U.S. subsidy payments in that year were $42 billion.

Mr. 'Ala' pointed out: The payment of subsidies is an inseparable part of the free economic mechanism, because without it in the race to gain maximum profit, which has been recognized as a goal in this system, a number of individuals, due to unavailability of resources, fall behind, and the government must give them subsidies to protect its national interests.

In continuation, the speaker pointed out the necessity to reform the consumption model of the country and said: Reforming the consumption model in the country is one of the most vital tasks that needs to be done on the basis of a precise plan and using the views of faithful and compassionate experts, because one of the factors in developed industrial countries being able to influence and seize Third World countries is changing their consumption model. The consumer goods in the developed countries are in conformity with their normal progress and cultural conditions, but their use in other countries which are still preparing for industrial development and economic growth is a mindless enterprise which does not conform to the requirements of their time or their other cultural, economic and religious models.

He added: Western countries, by polluting the developing nations with their goods, spread the Western life style, even in the villages of these countries, and people without a washing machine, vacuum cleaner, freezer and dozens of other luxury items feel that they are poor. Hence, one speaks of the poverty line, and the poorest of countries will also have a poverty line close to the poverty line of the most advanced Western countries. If the government does not prevent in various ways the entry of non-essential luxury items that are at times contrary to our cultural model as well into the country, before long, it will be forced to import them at high cost in order to prevent the social problems due to the shortage of these goods.

Kamaloddin Shahriari, The Representative Of Dashti And Tangestan

One Of The Lofty Values Of The Islamic Revolution Of Iran Is To Establish Social Justice In All Aspects Of The Society That Has Been Inherited From The Tyrant [the late shah].

Mr. Seyyed Kamaloddin Shahriari, from the Dashti and Tangestan electoral district, was the second pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday.

[Passage omitted on the need to establish economic equity and justice in the country.]

He added: Based on the published reports of the Iranian statistical center, there is only one doctor for every 18,702 villagers, 1 dentist for every 72,095 villagers, and one pharmacist for every 111,876 villagers. Only 8.9 percent of the villages in the country have a secondary school and 1.1 percent have a high school. Given these figures, how can the villagers, who are the best producers of agricultural, livestock and rural industrial products, be kept at home and prevented from migrating to the populated cities? This oppressed and downtrodden stratum of the society, due to the shortage of fundamental establishments and the means for production and its quantitative and qualitative increase as well as lack of service and comfortable living establishments, leave their hearth and home and come to the cities, where they engage in work such as simple labor, peddling on the streets, selling cigarettes and, God forbid, begging, stealing, pickpocketing, buying and selling foreign currency, smuggling narcotics, and so on. Given this fact, and the fact that deprivation and its eradication are not properly dealt with, n will result in all parts of the country, both the deprived and the advanced, to face critical problems and irreparable damage. Therefore, I ask of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, who has in the government policy rightly given an important place to the elimination of deprivation and by creating the office of deprived areas has taken a great step in this regard, and also of the Plan and Budget Organization and the honorable plan and budget committee of the Majles, and finally the honorable representatives of the Majles, particularly the assembly of representatives of the deprived regions, that they pay special attention to the deprived regions in the 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] national budget and by providing appropriate and sufficient funds, offer support and follow up supervision, and put the elimination of deprivation at the top of the government agenda next year, so that, God willing, it will be a compensation for the past.

In conclusion, he mentioned the problems of his constituency and the Province of Bushehr and said: Unfortunately, although more than two weeks have passed since the recent earthquake occurred in Bushehr Province and the two cities of Dashtestan and Tangestan suffered serious, major damage due to an earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale, so far the extent of the damage has not been determined, and the deprived and quake-stricken people are living in insecurity and without shelter. Although in the early hours of the earthquake no precise report on the damage was made and the above-mentioned incident was regarded as unimportant, in my recent visit to the area, local sources estimated the damage to people's homes and property and the facilities at more than 25 billion rials.

Mr. Shahriari enumerated some of the damage resulting from the recent earthquake in his constituency and requested that the president send a delegation to the region and take steps to repair the damage.

Arsalan Safa'i, The Representative Of The People Of Bakhtaran

When The Entire Budget And All Resources Are Concentrated In One Province, The Natural Result Is The Emergence Of Poverty In Other Provinces.

Mr. Arsalan Safa'i, from Bakhtaran electoral district, was the third pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday.

He said: It is true that problems and weaknesses exist that must be turned into capabilities, but when our fighters were fighting and the sacred defense was going on in our country, the foreign policy officials at the level that I witnessed were not separated from this movement. No spirit of compromise and submission existed, and they too had the same hopes for defense that our combatants did on the fronts and in the trenches. But world conditions required at one time for us to act in this way.

He added: I suggest that in all the work done on the economic front and in planning, uniformity of opinions must exist and coordination must take place with the foreign policy officials abroad and in the country so that the differences of opinion that we have, and some might be correct, do not cause differences of opinion abroad, because here our vital interests and our regime are at risk.

He continued: The views of the government, the Majles and all the officials towards the people must be the same as that of the imam looking at the people and the same as the grand leader of the Islamic revolution looking at the people. We know the views of the imam. The grand leader in his last visit with the officials clearly and explicitly said that the main concern is the people; the people are in charge; the people have the right; all of us are servants of the people; this service is so valuable that the imam said: "If they would call me a servant, it would be better." If our president, our speaker of the Majles, our ministers and our representatives who are working round-the-clock also immerse themselves in service to the people, then they can pride themselves on what the imam prided himself on, which is serving the people.

We should know that ignoring the people and not letting the people participate in the affairs will cause them to break away from the regime and the revolution, which would be a tragedy for Islam, our Islamic homeland and the revolution; and God and the martyrs will not forgive us.

He added: It is true that the economy of the East has failed, but this does not mean that we should move towards a Western economy. Our path is the path of the Koran and Islam. Our path is the path of establishing economic justice on the basis of Islamic principles and standards, and this must start with the government. The government must be the standard bearer of this task. When we witness that the entire budget and all the resources are concentrated in a few provinces, the

economy is moving in a few provinces, and the universities are concentrated in a few provinces, we can no longer speak of fair distribution, because, when all this is done in a few provinces, the natural result is poverty and need.

He added: We must implement our Islamic regime, which is, thank God, one of the most stable and strongest regimes in the world, because it relies on the people, Islam and the spirit of martyrdom-seeking more and more every day. The first issue is that the government [the executive branch] must be the government, and the judicial branch must be the judicial branch. It is the right of the government to carry out the executive affairs with power and be supported on this path. The judicial branch must issue verdicts based on justice, piety and decisiveness and must be supported on its path. Here, the first place belongs to the Majles to plan and supervise the affairs. The representatives must be strengthened in this regard, because when a representative wants to impose supervision, he must speak of the good and the bad. To express the good and the bad might please some and displease others. A representative must have security. The spirit of criticism in a representative equals that sensitive spirit of martyrdom-seeking at the dawn of Islam in those who stood up to the greatest officials of their time and expressed their opinion. It was with that spirit that they spread Islam to the farthest corners of the world. Today, it is that spirit that sends our young people before the tanks. If an honorable representative makes impassioned criticism, he should not be attacked.

Ratifications Of The Majles

The first item on the agenda of the open session of the Majles yesterday was the legislation for the "selection of Justice Department attorneys," returned from the honorable Council of Guardians.

The objections of the Council of Guardians were as follows:

1. Considering that the establishment of the special court was upon the instruction of the grand leader and exempt from regular laws, the determination of the precepts for this court is contrary to Constitutional law and religious regulations.

2. The phrase "the nullification of the judge's ruling if not accepted..." must be omitted.

In adhering to the view of the Council of Guardians, Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji, in connection with the first objectives, suggested that the phrase, "special court of the clergy," be omitted, which was not ratified and was rejected.

Also, Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji proposed that this phrase under the note be omitted: "If a court strips an accused of the right to take an attorney and a ruling is made without the presence of an attorney, this ruling lacks legal validity."

In regards to this suggestion, it was voted on and was not ratified, but rejected.

Then the speaker of the Majles announced: Therefore the opinion of this Majles in this regard stands as before and is returned to the Council of Guardians.

The report of the investigation committee in regards to the credentials of Mr. Mohammad Reza Shafi'i from Fuman was the second item on the agenda, which after being rejected in Branch 11 was sent back to the investigation committee.

The investigation committee's report states that among the main reasons for the rejection of the credentials of Mr. Mohammad Reza Shafi'i are:

(1) The existence of a picture that shows Mr. Mohammad Reza Shafi'i among the welcoming party of the late shah, wherein he had gone to the airport with a group of wealthy people and other people in 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978] to welcome the shah. (2) The procedure of the holding ceremonies and meetings under various pretexts for election publicity and misusing the headquarters which had been established for the memorial services in honor of the beloved martyr, Mohammad Hoseyn Eftekhari, and ultimately was turned into the election headquarters of Mr. Shafi'i.

The speaker of the committee continued his report enumerating the views of two groups in the committee and pointed out: One view questions whether persons who have no problems at all, who have been in line with the struggle for the revolution both prior to and after the Islamic revolution and who have revolutionary views and thoughts, could not be found in this area, but that Mr. Shafi'i, despite such a history, had to be elected as a representative of an electoral region. The other view was that all the circumstances must be taken into consideration, and issues such as why Mr. Shafi'i was present in the welcoming ceremonies of the shah, the conditions of the region, particularly before the victory of the revolution, and also pictures such as this which have existed with regard to other people in the previous years should also be considered.

In the conclusion of the investigation committee report, the results of the ballots in the committee on the credentials were read. Of the 10 members present, there were five votes in support, three in opposition and two abstentions, and the final decision was conferred on the Majles.

Following the reading of the report of the investigation committee, Mr. Shafi'i spoke in his own behalf.

Concerning the issue of the photograph, he said: I was told one day on the telephone that I must go to the home of Ayatollah Saberi. I went there and together we left for the airport. At the airport, I noticed the shah, and there was no way to go back or do anything else. We spoke to one of the brothers there, saying that I wished I had a gun and could shoot out the brains of that hated one. I even told that brother that if we could do anything and carry it out and we were killed afterwards, the Iranian nation would decorate our graves with gold. Continuing his

defense, Mr. Shafi'i referred to the opinions of the Police Department of Gilan Province before the revolution about his activities and said: The Gilan Police Department wrote, On the 40th day of the martyrdom of the martyrs of Zhaleh Square, some fliers from the imam were brought to the Kasehforushan Mosque by some people to someone who is his representative in Gilan. (The name of Hojjat ol-Eslam Ehsanbakhsh is mentioned.) They write that the content of the flier was harmful and insulted the shah. The fliers were distributed by 13 persons. One of them was "Shafi'i," who distributed the fliers which opposed the person of the shah.

The second came in the Friday mosque of Kasehforushan, when a person by the name of "Saberi" in civilian clothes went on the pulpit and after reciting the Koran began shouting anti-national and anti-homeland slogans and insulting the shah, stating that they kill our young people and then they deny it; Iran is our country; the imam is our leader. He then added that Iran is a Moslem country, that any kind of drinking of alcohol is prohibited in Islam and then he told people to tell him, "Oh, you who have no honor, leave the throne." Then Shafi'i went on the pulpit, turned off the light and began his insults.

He also added: After the death of Grand Ayatollah Borujerdi, for a few months I emulated the late Ayatollah 'Abd ol-Hadi Shirazi, and then I became an emulator of the imam. In the months of Ramazan, Moharram and Safar, I promulgated the treatises of the imam on the pulpits and encouraged the people to follow the imam. With the coming of the Islamic revolution in 1357 [1978-79], the communiques and decrees of the imam were read to us by Ayatollah Ehsanbakhsh, and we used them on the pulpits to propagate among the people.

Mr. Shafi'i then enumerated his activities after the victory of the Islamic revolution as follows: (1) Continuous participation on the front and the war, (2) investigating people's complaints in the office of the representative of the religious guardian in the Province of Gilan, (3) in charge of investigating the complaints of the people in the office of the representative of the religious guardian from 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] on, (4) deputy director of the support headquarters for the front and the war, (5) teaching in the revolution committees and the Guards Corps, etc.

In connection with his election headquarters, he said: I was endorsed by 216 members of the martyrs' families in the region, 140 of the freed prisoners of war and also the self-sacrificers in my bid to be a representative. The person in charge of my election headquarters was a cleric and other brothers, all brothers of two or three martyrs and self-sacrificers. Following the defense of Mr. Shafi'i, his credentials were put to a vote and received 191 votes as follows: 61 opposing votes, 21 abstentions, and 105 supporting votes, and the credentials of Mr. Shafi'i, the representative of the people of Fuman, were ratified.

The third item on the agenda was the legislation on the interpretation of the single-article bill about the separation of duties of ministries of agriculture and construction jihad. This was presented as a double urgent legislation and its double urgency category was put to vote and approved.

[passage omitted on one of the appointments in the Ministry of Education].

Request To The Speaker Of The Majles To Accomplish The Instructions Of The Imam

Legislative And Parliamentary Division.

Following the statements of Mr. Salehabadi, the representative of Mashhad, on 28 November 1990 in the open session of the Majles, concerning the problems created in the course of the invitation to Ayatollah Yazdi to speak at Al-Zahra University, the head of the Narjes School in Mashhad, addressing the speaker of the Majles in a letter, a copy of which was sent to RESALAT, asked for a reading of the explanations of the school with regard to implementing the instructions of the imam. The text of the explanation is as follows.

I, who have for 25 years had the honor of establishing and serving at the Narjes School in Mashhad, was invited by Hojjat ol-Eslam "the honorable Dr. 'Abd Khoda'i" to speak at Al-Zahra University on 3 Azar (3/9/69 [24 November 1990]) on the occasion of the blessed birthday of her holiness Zaynab. I went to that university at the appointed time. Unfortunately, the environment of the university was not favorable. Those in charge prepared the location with some difficulty and asked me to make my speech. In the middle of my speech, the honorable head of the judicial branch, "his honor Mr. Yazdi," came to the gathering, and out of respect for his arrival, I stopped speaking and offered the session to him, and the situation occurred which you certainly know about.

What I mean to do in taking your valuable time is to protest the statements of "Mr. Salehabadi," the honorable representative of Mashhad, in his pre-agenda speech at the podium of the Majles in the session on Wednesday (28 November 1990), reported in KHORASAN newspaper, No. 11974, dated Thursday, 29 November 1990] He stated:

"In conclusion, I point out two issues on domestic and foreign policy. The first concerns the incident on Saturday, 24 November 1990, at Al-Zahra University in Tehran, where without coordination with the Islamic student society of that university, the head of the judicial branch was invited to speak. In that meeting, a number of girls from the Narjes School of Mashhad accompanied by the director of that school and a number of the women of Tehran Shahabad seminary came to the university, representing themselves as students of Al-Zahra University, and protested against the head of the judicial branch making a speech and the Islamic student society

of the above-mentioned university, believing in organizing events by illegal assemblies unrelated to the university. This caused chaos during the speech of the head of the judicial branch at Al-Zahra University."

Firstly, I took part in the meeting on the invitation of Dr. 'Abd Khoda'i, the representative of the grand leader in the university. Secondly, I participated in that gathering by myself and had even come from Mashhad to Tehran alone, and none of the students of the Narjes School in Mashhad were with me. Thirdly, the Narjes School in Mashhad is not an illegal and unknown establishment, but has legal status, has been registered, has specific bylaws and a charter, and has a registration No. of 261. You can investigate. Besides, most of the officials and servants of the regime of the Islamic Republic know the history of this institution and have frequently given us spiritual encouragement to continue our path.

We ask you, Is it not necessary for a representative to observe respect for an old religious institution in the holy city of Mashhad and some of the other provincial cities inside and outside the province and for its students? If not, of whom should one have any expectations?

Then again, were the statements of Mr. Ha'erizadeh, who speaks of the issue of the unity of the seminary and the university in the pre-agenda speech on 1 April 1990, unifying or disuniting? He says:

"They bring people from the Narjes School of Mashhad and the seminary for a religious gathering."

He must respond to this absolute lie.

Now, let us consider the directives of our Imam, who said:

"Whenever someone's name is mentioned disrespectfully or accusatorially in the Majles, allow him to defend himself from that same podium."

Please instruct that in place of a "defense" this letter be read from the podium of the Majles, and in this way not only will justice be carried out but also the anxiety of the students of the Narjes School will be quelled.

The fact is that there were two insulting points in his speech:

1. The chiding tone of the honorable representative, who instead of using the term seminary student or student, referred to the girls of the Narjes School.

2. The lie that has been spread from the statements of a representative.

Founder and director of the Narjes School in Mashhad, Fatemeh Taha'i

* RESALAT Reports 8 Jan Majles Session

91AS0452A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 Jan 91 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and parliamentary division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, following the statements of the representatives of Mahshahr, Eqlid and Arak as pre-agenda speakers, the Majles went into session. 'Abd-ol-'Azim Khaza'i, the representative of the people of Mahshahr

Today, it is our duty to gain the trust of the people and their hope in the future.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the Majles yesterday was Mr. Khaza'i from Mahshahr. [passage omitted]

Then, reading sections of the imam's political, divine last will and testament, that is, on the need of the officials for the support of the people and the necessity of precision in the selection of governors general, he said: Unfortunately, the inclination not to rely on the help of others exists today in some officials, which results in some amateur decisions made oblivious to their consequences, which, in addition to complicating the situation, give rise to questioning the regime. Then they try to justify their actions in an amateur manner.

He added: This inclination must be eliminated in the officials of this regime. Today, it is our duty to gain the trust of the people and their hope in the future. Failure to pay attention to them, ignoring their problems, lack of conviction to solve them and creating despair and hopelessness in the people are unforgivable sins. This important issue, which can make use of the capabilities, ideas and thoughts of the employees in a productive task and have positive results in terms of the quantity and quality of the product and can be a dynamic force in the progress of the task, has not yet been ingrained in the nature of our officials. In developed countries, this is given a great deal of importance, and the strength of their decisions and progress is based on this issue.

We have seen the capability of these people at various junctures of the revolution. We have witnessed the blossoming of the talents of the young people during the eight years of the sacred defense. Tolerating the pressures and hardships has made these people resilient. Under the difficult war conditions, despite the advanced weapons of the enemy, the minds of the mobilization forces shone and showed that they have both the ability to command a war and no deficiency in building weapons.

The speaker continued: Why are these talents and capabilities not being used? I dare say that under such circumstances, only this can be constructive, and if we want the revolutionary culture to remain on the side of the regime and its flames not to subside, we have no other alternative but to use these capabilities and minds.

In conclusion, the speaker spoke about the problems of the people of his constituency, such as the shortage of vehicles, increased housing rental fees and food prices and the condition of companies, education, and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and asked the officials, especially the president, to solve them.

Ahmad Nikfar, The Representative Of The People Of Eqlid

Mr. Ahmad Nikfar from Eqlid was the second pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday.

Offering his congratulations on the anniversary of the birth of her holiness Sadiqeh Kobra, he deemed the naming of this day as Women's Day a good omen and asked God for the increased success in following the ways and character of the grand lady of Islam and mother of the imams.

He added: The criminal United States and its allies must know that, as the grand leader of the Islamic revolution said, even though the aggression of Saddam in Kuwait is bad and condemned, the aggression of the United States in the Middle East and occupying the land of divine inspiration is 10 times, even 100 times, worse. The Muslims of the world will not tolerate more disrespect for the sacred site of the holy shrines and the Islamic sanctuary. God willing, they will make the region the graveyard of the depraved and filthy American soldiers.

He added: Of course, Iraq must also know that aggression against Kuwait and changing the geographical borders of the region cannot be ignored by any means, and it must leave Kuwait unconditionally and leave its destiny to the people of that country. The Muslims of the world, and particularly the Muslim people of the Middle East, also will not await the sold-out rulers who have presented to the Great Satan all the dignity of Islam and the Muslim nation along with the God-given resources of the region for a few days of debauchery and shall, like the brave nation of Iran, rise against the United States and its filthy servants and clean the Islamic land of the filth of their existence. Undoubtedly, God shall be their aid, because, "God helps those who help themselves and will support your actions."

He emphasized: The time has come for the Muslims of the world to ask the puppet rulers of the superpowers in the Islamic countries: If you really oppose the aggression on Islam and, as you say, Arab countries, why have you, as dishonorable as you are, not shown any reaction to the aggression of the cancerous and infected cyst, the Zionist regime, on the first qiblah of the Muslims and the suppression of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims and have even at times supported it officially and unofficially? Has the time not come for the Muslims of the world to use as their motto for their struggle the statement of the grand leader of the revolution (God's blessing upon him), who said, "If the one billion Muslims of the world each pours one bucket of water, the flood will sweep Israel away," and rise up united to free Jerusalem from the filth of the Zionists, in which case, without a doubt, the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Muslim people of Islamic Iran shall be on the front lines.

He continued: The Government of India must be warned that the Muslim nations of the world and the regime of the Islamic Republic will no longer tolerate their indifference towards the slaughter of Muslims and even its support at times for the Hindus. I ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic to declare to the government of India that if this condition continues, there shall be a revision of the continuation of relations between Iran and India and ask the international courts that pretend to support human rights to take appropriate action in this regard.

He continued: I find it necessary to remind the honorable brother and sister representatives of a few highlights of the imam's words addressed to the representatives of the second Majles. He said, "It is expected of the representatives to observe Islamic protocol in the discussions, the motivation for which is to distinguish truth from falsehood. With regard to these issues, in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity, as in scholarly arguments in the seminaries where the goal is to find the facts and not to impose one's views, the gentlemen can reach the truth more easily.

"Undoubtedly, the Majles supervises all the affairs of the country, and it is the right of the representatives to prevent any deviation or violation by the ministers and in the offices in accordance with the law, and the government must bring them to the point of impeachment. But there is a difference between supervision and impeachment, fault finding and revenge, and everyone understands this difference when he examines his conscience.

"One point which should be mentioned concerns the pre-agenda speeches. Often the speaker might think he can say anything he wants to anyone without any restrictions, sense of duty or responsibility and that there are no divine, religious and moral standards at work. It is expected of the honorable representatives, who have succeeded with the help of God and the votes of the masses of the oppressed people, that they serve Islam and the honorable nation, take the side of truth in all their activities and voting, and give thanks to God. They should take the regulations into consideration. If you want to stand against falsehood without fear and defend the truth without the superpowers and their advanced weapons, do not let the Satans and their conspiracies affect your soul and lead you astray. Accustom yourself to living simply and avoid love of possessions and status."

In the charter of brotherhood, he said: "Another issue is in whose interest is fighting today and disintegrating the revolutionary clergy? The enemies have long prepared to create disunity among the clerics. To neglect it will cause the loss of everything. Solve the differences any way

possible. Your skepticism should be directed towards the high officials and your differences should be based on traditional, progressive religious jurisprudence and the like."

Can we not give the right to the beloved, brave people, who offered their chests as shields until the revolution under the leadership of the imam achieved victory and who sacrificed their loved ones for the Islamic revolution and strengthened it until we reached this sacred place, to question why we have not heeded the statements of our revered imam? Has the time not come for all of us to ask ourselves how bound we are to the imam's declarations and whether or not we have truly made the declarations of that true son of God's messenger our motto? Do we consider the angelic soul of his reverence to be present and watchful over our words and deeds? And if we do, and God willing we do, the people expect us to favor the interests of Islam, the revolution, Islamic Iran and the people, who, as the imam said, are our masters, over our own interests and those of our faction, never allowing harm to come to the revolutionary clergy, which, as the imam said, has protected Islam and entrusted it to us today. To harm the authentic clergy is to harm Islam and will generate joy within the enemies of the revolution and alienate friends. On this important issue, what the people expect of the religious scholars, both in the Majles and in the seminaries, is that they not allow a number of people, under the pretext of defending a particular faction, to destroy the reputation of the clergy, but to solve the differences of opinion and hold other seminary discussions among themselves and help each other grow.

He added: Another point to be mentioned is addressed to the honorable Majles, in particular our dear brothers in the Plan and Budget Committee, and that is that, in accordance with the statement of the grand leader of the revolution, they pay the requisite attention to the Five-Year Plan and realize that in writing the annual budget, to reach the goals in terms of quality and quantity is the main plan, and all resources must be utilized to achieve the ratified goals. We all know that it is necessary to increase the ceiling of the ratified funds of the plan in proportion to the increase in the developmental expenditures, because the determined figures in the plan are based on 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] prices, and the prices of the developmental expenditures have increased by at least 40 percent compared to 1367.

For this reason, the necessary funds must be granted to achieve the goals of the third year of the plan, which means an increase of at least 40 percent. Otherwise, firstly, we shall witness the bitter reality of not reaching our goals at the end of the plan, and secondly, we shall not have the tools to oversee and pursue the progress of these undertakings due to the shortage of funds. Also, the likelihood of negligence and deficiency shall increase, because, in response, they shall raise the issue of the shortage of funds. In other words, the shortage of funds shall be a pretext for likely negligence. Here, I must complain to the honorable government. Despite the emphasis on the reconstruction policies which were endorsed by the imam as well, why, in the budget bill offered to the Majles, has the necessary significance not been given to the agricultural sector, considering that the ceiling of the bill shows an increase of about 40 percent compared to the third year of the plan? These funds for the agricultural sector have been reduced by 2 percent, for which, God willing, the honorable Majles shall compensate.

Also, I have proposed that the budget committee omit any line of revenues they find unrealistic, regard borrowing from the Central Bank permissible up to the level of the plan, and not reduce the ceiling of the government bill in regards to expenditures. God willing, it shall do so.

He added: Another humble reminder to the government and the Majles is that, unfortunately, fairness has still not been observed in the regional distribution of investments. Instead of taking into consideration the potential and oppressed condition of an area, other factors, such as being the center of the province, have been taken into consideration. The cultural and economic centers have been concentrated in the provincial capitals, and only in a few provinces for that matter, disregarding the hidden talents and potential of the oppressed regions. This has resulted in the efforts of the people to achieve city and province status, because they have realized that becoming a city or a province means development. Otherwise, they must face poverty and lack of progress. The servants of the people are expected to heed the declarations of the grand leader of the revolution in his last visit with the officials of the provinces and not to forget the people, particularly the oppressed, who are the true proprietors of the revolution. They should truly consider themselves the servants of the people and not their creditors.

He also added: I remind the honorable ministers to make his (the grand leader's) behavior a model and for their trips not to be confined to the provincial capitals and opening ceremonies. Rather, they should also visit the oppressed areas where work needs to be done and to see the ruins, the oppression and, more importantly, the talents.

In conclusion, he thanked the Ministry of Energy and the regional water agency of Fars Province for providing drinking water to the city of Eqlid.

Al-Hoseyni, The Representative Of The People Of Arak

We Oppose Nationalization Of The Affairs Under The Present Conditions As Much As We Oppose What Is Now Implemented In The Name Of The Policy Of Economic Modification.

The last pre-agenda speaker was Mr. al-Hoseyni, the representative of the People of Arak, who offered his congratulations on the anniversary of the birth of her holiness Fatemeh Zahra and the birth of her revered son, our late imam, and honored women's day. He expressed hope that the women of the country, with the preparations made by the officials of the nation for the

increasing participation of women on the scene, will be able to achieve their innate rights.

The speaker continued and said: The chosen women who are accepted by Islam were never merely housewives and wives, but in carrying out this important task, they also accepted other social responsibilities. Unfortunately, two erroneous selections exist with regard to women in the society, the view that confines the woman merely to the home, which results in not having the right to be present in the society, and the view that is influenced by the Western solution. Following the unchecked model of the West has placed women at the service of profiteering greed and made them the sexual objects of men. Given that each one of these is an extremist view, in practice they result in not solving the issue of women and their failure to function in their natural role. Consequently, in addition to causing women to often suffer psychological and physical symptoms, it has also deprived society of a work force in the economic, political and social arena, for which something must be done.

He added: Unfortunately, I must declare my anxiety over the inattention to cultural issues and the lack of even the slightest success in this important issue. The cultural invasion by the oppressors through various radios, various illegible and obscene films, on the one hand, and the inability to solve the cultural problems influencing the economic, political and social issues in the culture of the country, on the other, as well as the way the officials deal with this important issue and how they live have caused the young stratum to become inattentive and indifferent to the issues.

Pointing out that our Islamic revolution is cultural by nature, Mr. al-Hoseyni said: Since the creation of a proper environment for nurturing talents and increasing human growth is one of our main duties, we must find a rapid solution to this problem and deal with those who wittingly or unwittingly act to implement the plans of the oppressors, without deviating by any means from the policy of strengthening our values.

In another part of his speech, he criticized the new economic policy of the government and pointed out:

It is necessary to criticize the shortcomings of the new economic policy in all its aspects; by eliminating the shortcomings, we can find the proper path. We oppose the economic policies and the nationalization of all tasks under the present conditions as much as we oppose a market economy and what is being implemented in the name of the policy of economic modification. We believe these two place the society daily at the risk of harmful mistakes. The path which is being followed will not only prove to be problematic to economic development but will destroy the spirit of national cooperation in the promotion of the country to reach a new system based on justice and freedom. On the other hand, the economic growth of a few people cannot eliminate poverty. In practice, contrary to the rejected theory of the past decades in Europe, the economic growth of a particular class or classes will not bring about general economic growth. Taking development essentially to mean economic growth shall result in making development one-dimensional, harming growth and disturbing social balance. With the implementation of the new economic policies, prices will continue to climb. This is contrary to the false claim that is made now and then in regards to controlling inflation. Under the pretext that supply and demand must determine prices, subsidies must be eliminated, and there should be no government control over prices, high prices and inflation will increase daily. Some people who have money and a hand in economic wheelings and dealings put their money into circulation and most callously gain large profits from an oppressed nation through hoarding, price hiking and destructive economic activities, and they do not give one rial to anyone. Hence, a very small group benefits and the rest must live in poverty and hardship. Even though the decrease in the value of the national currency is necessary to some extent and can work positively, it has been implemented in the worst form and has created the most unpleasant results on the economy and the society. The government must increasingly engage in determining the rate of the value of the national currency, because the government foreign currency sale has not only failed to result in collecting a cash flow (as a necessary task) but has aided the thriving of the activities of the destructive services sector and has to some extent overshadowed the culture of the society. In the same vein, the gentlemen publicize comfort and consumerism. First of all, who does not like comfort that he needs you to try to sell it to him? Secondly, in economic terms, revenues can be allocated in two directions: (1) investment savings, and (2) consumption. If the consumption expenditures are high, certainly we cannot have savings followed by investments and what has been projected in the first developmental plan as the share of the private sector in investments. Answer! How successful have you been so far, and has this been accomplished? Thirdly, you want to move towards a market economy. The society has not yet even entered a superficial capitalism. Such propaganda belongs to those societies. In a superficial capitalist society, there is more consumption, and it is promoted to prevent economic recession. Such is not for us who are years away from balancing supply and demand. Fourthly, in order to succeed in an economic period, we must not act in a way that will destroy (God forbid) the values and the sacred and beneficial sensitivities of the society, such as living simply, positive asceticism, being content, and belief in veiling and the rule of the Hezbollah.

He continued: In practice, we must invest in and give priority to agriculture in order to stabilize our food supply. The most important place for investment in the country is the agricultural sector, because to do so will eliminate oppression, and we shall not have the numerous problems of concentration and accumulation of population in the cities. We must not sacrifice everything only for industry and inconsequential exports. The revolution and the war showed us that the agricultural

sector is vulnerable, but that it has constantly shown positive growth since the revolution. In any case, the consequences of increased prices, the benefits of a minority, the poverty of the majority of the people, not giving priority to social and economic justice, the danger of losing the people who support and protect the revolution, the potentiality of dependence as a result of borrowing and opening the gates of the country in an uncontrolled manner, the decrease in the value of the national currency, the lack of attention to the priority of agriculture, not being able to provide food security, the tendency towards comfort, the consumerization of the society and more importantly making the economic growth decisive with the mechanisms at hand comprise the warnings and problems before us which we must plan for and necessarily require a revision of policies.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Arak thanked the assembly for determining the interests, the honorable Council of Guardians and the Majles for ratifying the revolutionary labor law and expressed hope that the honorable government will be successful in implementing this law.

Ratifications By The Majles

The bill of Islamic punishments shall be implemented on a trial basis for five years on the basis of the ratification by the Majles.

The parliamentary correspondent of RESALAT reported this item from the open session of the Majles yesterday and added that this bill was discussed as the first item on the agenda. It has 499 articles which cite the punishment for all crimes. The second item on the agenda was the bill on permission to establish an athletic club and athletic field by the people under the supervision of the government, which was returned by the Council of Guardians. After discussions and examination of the amendments, this bill was ratified by the representatives.

Based on the amendment of Note 2 of the single article of this bill, lands that are determined by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Urban Land Organization for athletic use shall be placed at the disposal of the Physical Training Organization. If the land does not belong to the government and the abovementioned agency is unable to possess it, real or legal persons who have obtained permission to establish athletic fields or permission for the activities of the club can possess such lands with the agreement of the Physical Training Organization and the consent of the landlord.

The bill on the procedures of the financial and transactional affairs of universities and higher education and research institutions which are called (institution in this law) was discussed as the third item on the agenda, and the details of this bill were ratified by the representatives.

Based on Article 1 of this bill, the financial and transactional affairs of universities and higher education and research institutions which have been or will be established with official permission by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and are referred to as "institutions" in this law will be subject only to this law and its implemental bylaws.

Note. Amendments used in this law are subject to the definitions cited in the related laws and regulations.

Article 2. The operational and capital budget allocations of these institutions and also the special allocations (equal to their special revenues estimated by the institutions) will be included yearly in the national budget and ratified in the form of legislation s as aid.

Article 3. Operational and capital budget allocations will be released to the institutions at least once every three months through the related executive organizations at an amount equal to f three-twelfths of the ratified budget and in regards to special allocations equivalent to the total of collected revenues which have been deposited in the treasury.

Article 4. All operational, special and capital budget allocations cited in the national budget law may be paid by the end of every fiscal year, and the remainder of the unused funds for every year shall be transferred to the following year and included in the detailed budget of that institution.

Article 5. All institutions cited in this law may make use of gifts by the people and aid to carry out and complete the educational, research and developmental plans and projects, and the procedure for spending such aid shall be dependent on bylaws to be proposed by the board of trustees of the institution and the approval of the ministries.

Article 6. The Ministries of Culture and Higher Education and Health, Treatment and Medical Education are granted permission to establish the necessary facilities to create cooperative companies for building, repairing, upkeep and services of cafeterias, student dormitories, and faculty housing. The bylaws of these companies shall be approved by the Cabinet upon the joint proposal of the ministers of culture and higher education and health, treatment and medical education.

Article 7. These institutions shall be responsible to account for all funds and expenditures and maintain records of all monthly receipts and payments and to prepare a final yearly account, with verification from the auditor sent to the accounting office along with documents for examination and auditing and one copy of the receipts and payment records for every month and the final account of every year to be sent to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

Article 8. These institutions shall be responsible to send annual reports of the accomplishments based on the projected goals in the budget to the plan and budget, culture and higher education and health, treatment and

medical education committees of the Majles and the Plan and Budget Organization.

Article 9. The implemental bylaws of each above article shall be implemented as needed upon the proposal of the board of trustees of the related institutions and the joint approval of the ministers of culture and higher education and health, treatment and medical education.

Note. The composition of the boards of trustees shall be determined in accordance with the ratifications of sessions 181 and 183, dated 28 February and 14 March 1989, of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution.

Article 10. This law must be implemented from 21 March 1991, and from that date the general accounting law of the country and the government transactional bylaws, with the exception of Article 31 of the above-mentioned law, shall not be effective in regards to these institutions.

Letter Of More Than 140 Majles Representatives In Condemnation Of The Slaughter Of The Muslims Of Tunisia

In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful

The Islamic country of Tunisia has in recent days witnessed the barbaric, anti-Islamic actions of the regime of Tunisia in the arrest, torture and martyrdom of hundreds of revolutionary and brave children and followers of pure Mohammadan Islam.

They have been arrested for defending Islam and the values of the life-giving ideology of Islam on the strength of baseless accusations and are being subjected to the most severe torture, and according to some reports some of them have been martyred. The actions of the regime of Tunisia are part of the joint policies of the governments of the North African region to suppress the uprising forces of Muslims, who are most anxious to revitalize revolutionary Islam in their countries. The regime of Tunisia, which under the pretext of freedom allows the activities, even with regard to the alienated and defeated Marxists and political groups, is not prepared to tolerate even for one moment the existence of the revolutionary Muslim forces, while at the same time the Islamic movement, which has deep roots in the beliefs and ideals of the people of that country, has been chosen in the mosques, circles, universities, schools and especially among the young generation as the main center of struggle against the governing dictatorship.

In addition to expressing its deep anxiety over the fate of the arrested revolutionaries, the Majles once again emphasizes its overall support for the struggle of the Muslim people of Tunisia and considers any effort to expand relations between Iran and Tunisia dependent on the change in the discriminatory and anti-Islamic policies of the regime in that country.

Explanation And Correction

In publishing the pre-agenda speech of Mr. Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri, the representative of Dehloran, Mehran and Darrehshahr, to the Majles in the open session on Sunday, part of his statement was published in error, the correct version of which follows:

"Although the brave people and the tribes and dear migrants in Mehran, Shahan, Malekshahi, Darrehshahi, Abadan, Zarrinabad and Dehloran were eager to meet their leader, on this trip it was not possible, but once again the people's hearts are filled with love for the religious guardian and expectation of the attainment of this heartfelt wish in the near future.

"Motivated by the presence of the grand leader of the revolution in the oppressed Province of Ilam, I announce the most important cultural, developmental, economic and other needs, to which, God willing, the honorable government shall give attention."